FERAL
4: PET CITY
FLEECS | FORSTNER | RODRIGUEZ | SIMPSON

FERAL

IMAGE COMICS PRESENTS

FERAL

VOLUME 4: PET CITY

WRITER ..... TONY FLEECS
ART ..... TRISH FORSTNER
TONE RODRIGUEZ
COLOR ..... BRAD SIMPSON
EDITOR ..... DENNIS CULVER
LOGO ..... LAUREN HERDA
PRODUCTION ..... ERIKA SCHNATZ

COUGAR EFFECTS ..... SARA RICHARD
B COVER COLORS ..... ALLEN PASSALAQUA

COVER BY
TONY FLEECS, TRISH FORSTNER AND TONE RODRIGUEZ

FERAL CREATED BY
TONY FLEECS AND TRISH FORSTNER

CHAPTER 16:
THE RULE BREAKER

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Robert Kirkman – Chief Operations Officer
Erik Larsen – Chief Financial Officer
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Marc Silvestri – Chief Executive Officer
Jim Valentino – Vice President
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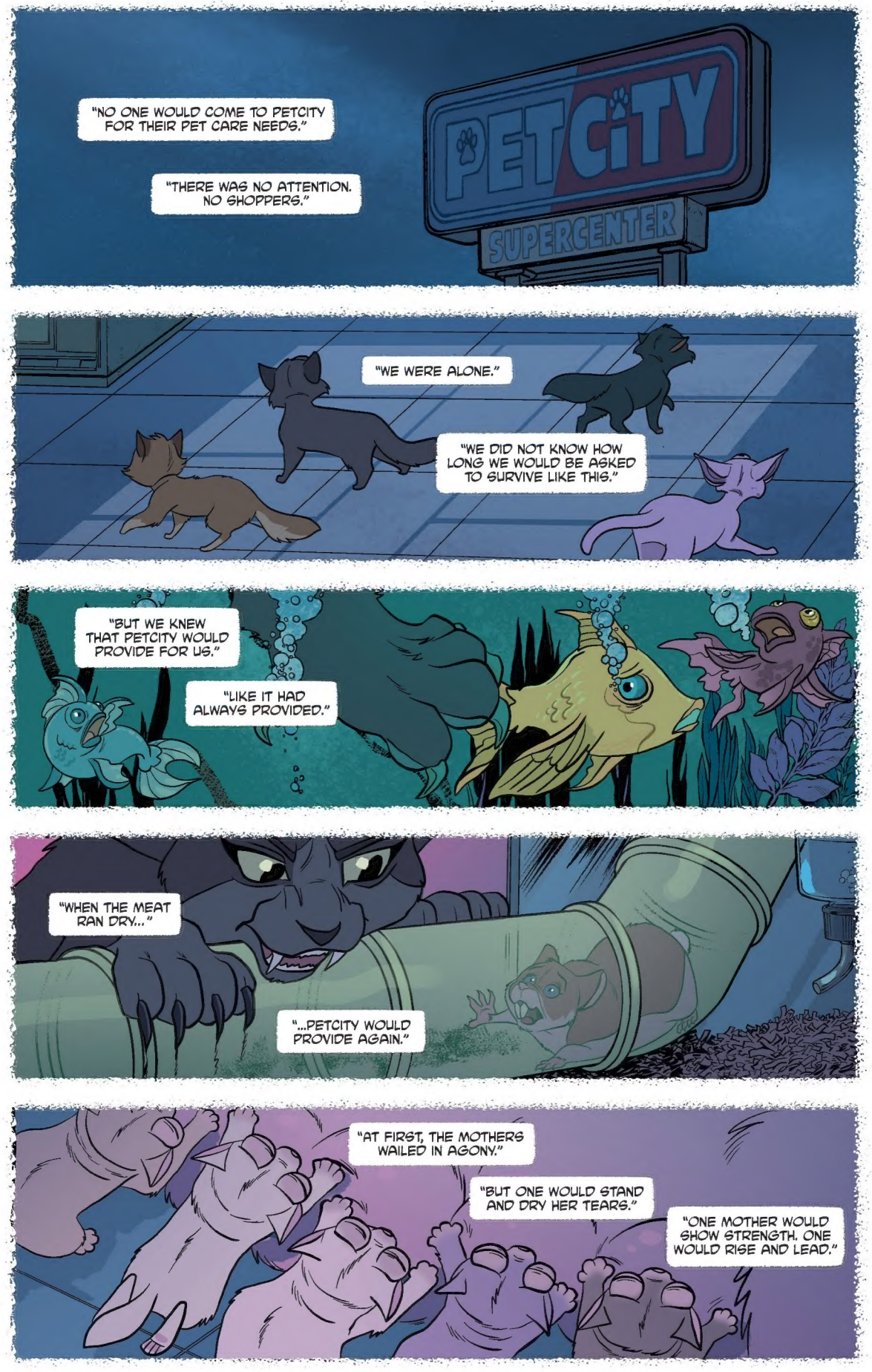
PETCITY
SUPERCENTER
WHEN THE CLOSING CAME...

"...WE DID NOT KNOW IT WAS THEIR LAST. THE PEOPLE OF PETCITY LEFT FOOD PILED HIGH."

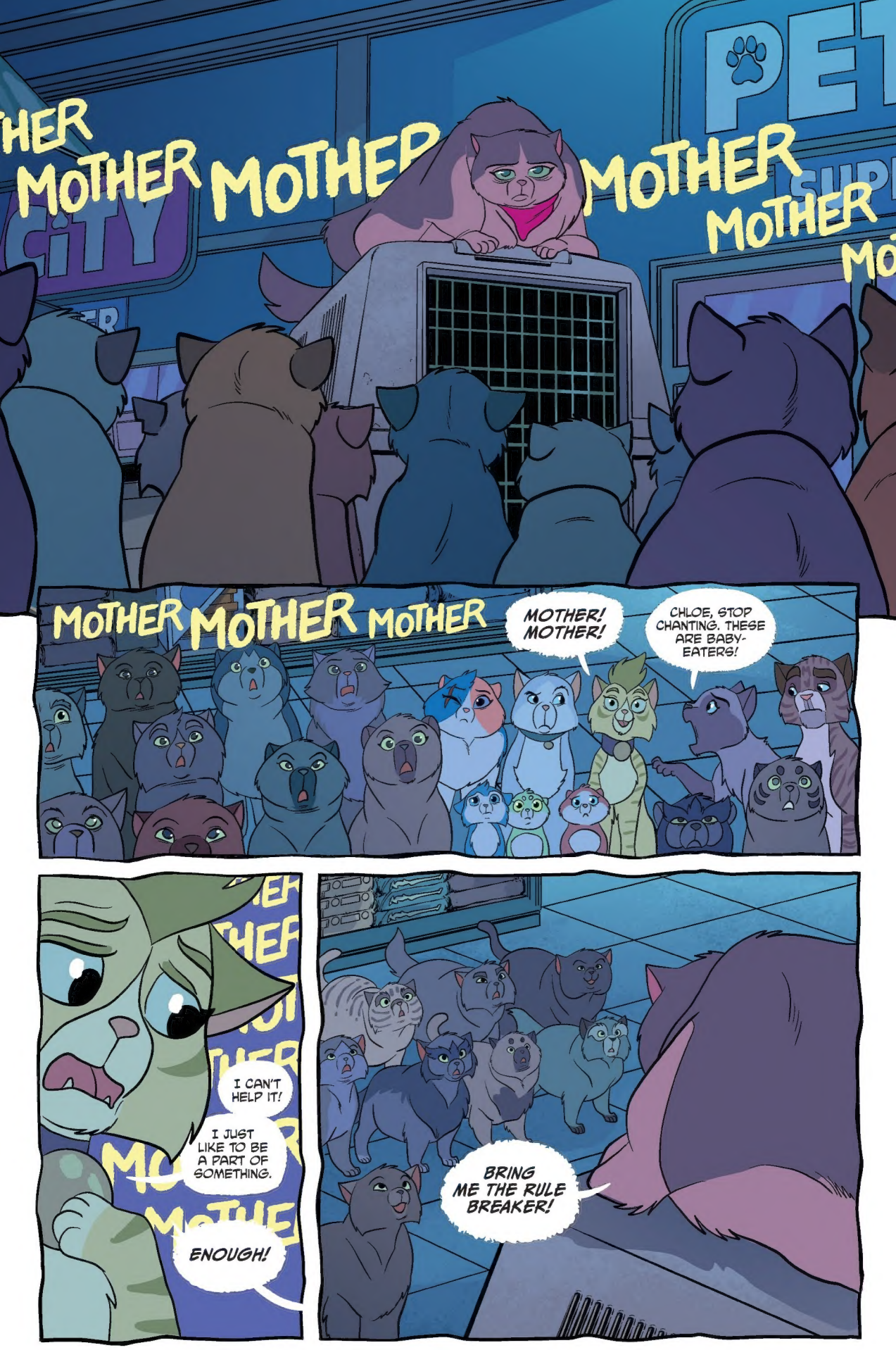
"IT WAS STRANGE. WE DID NOT KNOW THAT THESE WERE RATIONS FOR SURVIVAL. BUT WE WOULD SOON SEE."
"ATTENTION PET CITY SHOPPERS. WE WISH TO THANK YOU FOR MAKING PET CITY YOUR HOME FOR ALL YOUR PET CARE NEEDS."

"WHEN THE LIGHT RETURNED OUTSIDE, THE PEOPLE WOULD NOT COME TO OPEN."

"PET CITY WILL BE CLOSING IN TEN MINUTES. PLEASE MAKE YOUR--"
FLP
FLP
FLP
FLP
FLP

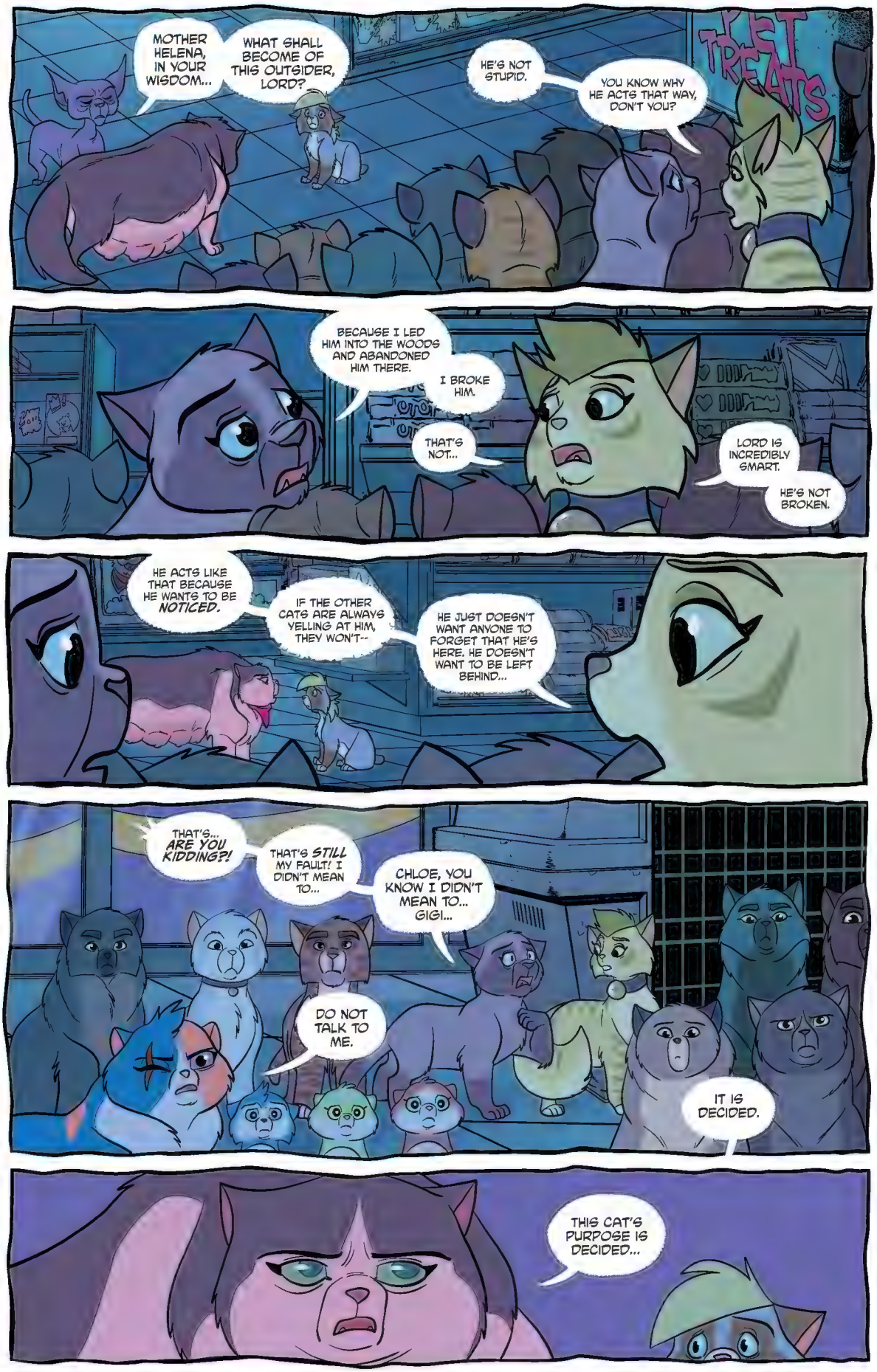

"NO ONE WOULD COME TO PETCITY FOR THEIR PET CARE NEEDS."
"THERE WAS NO ATTENTION. NO SHOPPERS."
PETCITY
SUPERCENTER
"WE WERE ALONE."
"WE DID NOT KNOW HOW LONG WE WOULD BE ASKED TO SURVIVE LIKE THIS."
"BUT WE KNEW THAT PETCITY WOULD PROVIDE FOR US."
"LIKE IT HAD ALWAYS PROVIDED."
"WHEN THE MEAT RAN DRY..."
"...PETCITY WOULD PROVIDE AGAIN."
"AT FIRST, THE MOTHERS WAILED IN AGONY."
"BUT ONE WOULD STAND AND DRY HER TEARS."
"ONE MOTHER WOULD SHOW STRENGTH. ONE WOULD RISE AND LEAD."

"SHE WAS THE BEGINNING AND END. SHE SAW THAT THE YOUNG ONES HAD PURPOSE."
"THEY WOULD BE SACRIFICE AND PETCITY WOULD PROVIDE. EVERYONE IN THEIR PURPOSE."
Happy Bits
"GATHERERS. FOOD BRINGERS. TIDIERS. MOTHERS. FEEDERS. DISCIPLINERS..."
"EVERYONE WOULD SERVE PETCITY. ALL WOULD LIVE AND DIE BY HER RULE."
"THOSE WHO COULD NOT SERVE, THOSE WHO BROKE THE RULES, WERE MET WITH DISCIPLINARY ACTION."
ZEUS
ZEUS
ZEUS
"ULTIMATELY, TERMINATION."
"JUST AS SHE KNEW EVERYONE'S PURPOSE, THE MOTHER KNEW WHAT PUNISHMENT WAS FAIR FOR WHICH TRESPASS."
"HER WISDOM WAS UNENDING. HER LIGHT WARMED US. HER GLORY. HER VENGEANCE. HER MERCY. HER EVERLASTING FERTILITY..."
"THIS WAS MOTHER HELENA."
MOTHER
MOTHER
MOTHER
MOTHER


MOTHER
MOTHER
MOTHER
MOTHER
MOTHER
MOTHER
MOTHER
MOTHER!
MOTHER!
CHLOE, STOP CHANTING. THESE ARE BABY-EATERS!
I CAN'T HELP IT!
I JUST LIKE TO BE A PART OF SOMETHING.
ENOUGH!
BRING ME THE RULE BREAKER!

OUTSIDER LORD, YOU ARE GUILTY OF RULE BREAKING.
OF ACTIONS OUTSIDE OF YOUR PURPOSE.
STAND NOW, AND ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR OFFENSES.
THE RULE BREAKER WAS TOLD NOT TO GO INTO THE FOOD PREPARATION ROOM. AND HE DID NOT LISTEN.
HE WAS HEADSTRONG AND DID NOT RELENT, EVEN WHEN DISCIPLINERS WERE SUMMONED.
THE RULE BREAKER WAS TOLD NOT TO COMPLAIN OR WHINE.
PETCITY IS A PARADISE. HER PUNISHMENTS ARE NOT UNJUST OR UNWARRANTED.
BUT WHEN REBUKED, THE RULE BREAKER DID PARTAKE IN UNCONTROLLED WHINING, WAILING AND MOANING.
AND MOST DISTURBINGLY, WHILE STILL SERVING PUNISHMENT FOR HIS INITIAL OFFENSE, THE RULE BREAKER RAN BACK TO THE FOOD PREPARATION ROOM AND THIS TIME, DID SNEAK IN!
IN DIRECT DEFIANCE OF THE RULES THAT HAD BEEN MADE CLEAR TO HIM.
DOES THE OUTSIDER ACKNOWLEDGE?
I DIDN'T...
I...
COME ON! HE JUST DOESN'T KNOW ANY BETTER!
CAN'T YOU SEE HE'S TRYING!?
HE JUST CAN'T... HE DOESN'T KNOW ENOUGH TO--
SILENCE!!

YOU HAVE BEEN REBUKED ONCE ALREADY, OUTSIDER ELSIE.
YOU WOULD BE WISE TO WATCH AND LEARN.
BUT--
ELSIE, SIT DOWN!
YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE IT WORSE.
THIS ISN'T RIGHT! WE CAN'T LET THEM--
HE CAN'T CONTROL HOW HE...
HE DOESN'T KNOW ANY BETTER!
ELSIE, STOP!
MAMA? IS LORD GOING TO BE OKAY?
THESE ARE YOUR TRESPASSES. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF YOUR GUILT. THERE IS ONLY MOTHER HELENA.
ONLY SHE CAN DIVINE YOUR DISCIPLINE.
IT'S NOT TRUE. WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT LORD.


MOTHER HELENA, IN YOUR WISDOM...
WHAT SHALL BECOME OF THIS OUTSIDER, LORD?
HE'S NOT STUPID.
YOU KNOW WHY HE ACTS THAT WAY, DON'T YOU?
PET TREATS
BECAUSE I LED HIM INTO THE WOODS AND ABANDONED HIM THERE.
I BROKE HIM.
THAT'S NOT...
LORD IS INCREDIBLY SMART.
HE'S NOT BROKEN.
HE ACTS LIKE THAT BECAUSE HE WANTS TO BE NOTICED.
IF THE OTHER CATS ARE ALWAYS YELLING AT HIM, THEY WON'T--
HE JUST DOESN'T WANT ANYONE TO FORGET THAT HE'S HERE. HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE LEFT BEHIND...
THAT'S... ARE YOU KIDDING?!
THAT'S STILL MY FAULT! I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
CHLOE, YOU KNOW I DIDN'T MEAN TO... GIGI...
DO NOT TALK TO ME.
IT IS DECIDED.
THIS CAT'S PURPOSE IS DECIDED...

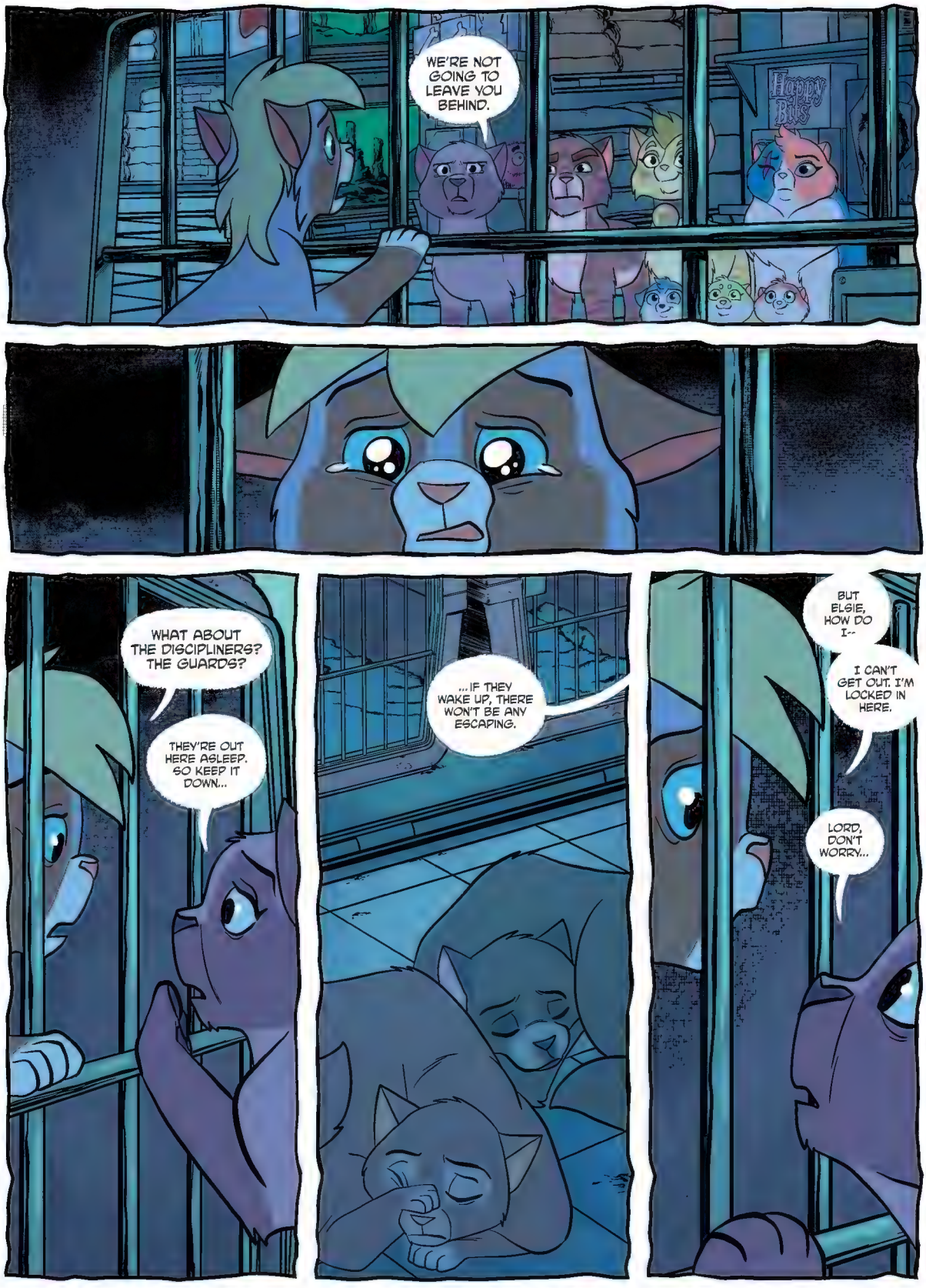
DEATH.
THAT IS HIS PURPOSE.
NO. PLEASE...
MISS HELENA, I'LL BE BETTER. I CAN DO BETTER.
THIS ISN'T RIGHT!
HE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG! YOU'RE THE ONES WHO--
OUTSIDER ELSIE!
THIS WILL BE YOUR VERY! LAST! WARNING.
CONTROL YOURSELF.
RESPECT MOTHER'S RULES OR YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF WITH THE SAME PURPOSE.
PLEASE! I'M SO SORRY. I'M--
DO NOT DESPAIR, CHILD. YOU ARE ABOUT TO BECOME A PART OF PETCITY.
THESE CATS. MY CATS. YOUR FRIENDS...
YOU WILL NOURISH THEM. THEY WILL SURVIVE BECAUSE OF YOU.

THIS IS HOW PETCITY PROVIDES.
OKAY, EVERYONE DISPERSE. BACK TO YOUR AREAS.
NO! WE CAN'T LEAVE HIM!
HE DOESN'T LIKE TO BE ALONE! HE DOESN'T--
ELSIE!
NOT NOW.
THIS ISN'T THE TIME.

I CAN DO BETTER.
I CAN BE...
LORD!?
LORD FLUFFY BRITCHES!?
HERE KITTY!
HERE BOY!
JINGLE JINGLE JINGLE

YOU HIDE...
AND I'LL TRY TO FIND YOU.
ELSIE?
KITTY.
KITTY!
JINGLE
JINGLE
WHERE ARE YOU?!
JINGLE
JINGLE
JINGLE
JINGLE

WHAT...?
JINGLE JINGLE
WHO IS IT? WHO'S THERE?
JINGLE
JINGLE JINGLE
COME ON. WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE.


WE'RE NOT GOING TO LEAVE YOU BEHIND.
Happy Bits
WHAT ABOUT THE DISCIPLINERS? THE GUARDS?
THEY'RE OUT HERE ASLEEP. SO KEEP IT DOWN...
...IF THEY WAKE UP, THERE WON'T BE ANY ESCAPING.
BUT ELGIE, HOW DO I--
I CAN'T GET OUT. I'M LOCKED IN HERE.
LORD, DON'T WORRY...

"...I KNOW HOW TO OPEN DOORS."

KLATCH

...WHAT NOW?
WE'RE STILL FIGURING THAT OUT.
IT'S TOO HIGH A JUMP TO LEAVE THROUGH THE ROOF LIKE WE CAME IN.
THROUGH THE FRONT. THERE'S A SWITCH.
WHAT'S A SWITCH?
THE WHITE CAT, LILA. SHE TOLD ME. BEFORE WILLIAM KIL--
...BEFORE SHE DIED.

THERE!
IS THAT SWITCHES?
I THINK SO, BUT...
HOW DO WE GET TO THEM?
THEY'RE SO HIGH.
CAN YOU CLAW UP THERE?
I'M NOT SURE... I--
OH! I HAVE AN IDEA.
BANG
SHHHHH!
NOT SO LOUD!
THUD
CRASH TUMBLE
TIP
I DIDN'T THINK IT WAS GOING TO MAKE A SOUND! I THOUGHT--
STOP!!

YOU ARE BREAKING PETCITY RULES!
ALL OF YOU ARE OUTSIDE OF PURPOSE.
GET DOWN FROM THERE. MOTHER WILL DIVINE IF WE SHOULD SHOW MERCY...
AISLE 8
...OR IF YOU ARE ALL TO JOIN YOUR FRIEND IN FINAL DISCIPLINE.
GUYS, WHAT...
WHAT ARE WE--
WHAT DO WE DO?

WE HAVE TO ASK FOR FORGIVENESS. MY KITTENS HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING WRONG!
THEY DON'T DESERVE--
WILLIAM! DISCIPLINERS!
TAKE THE OUTSIDERS TO THE CRATES.
WE HAVE TO RUN. SHE DOESN'T--
MOTHER HELENA DOESN'T KNOW MERCY.
THEY'RE GOING TO KILL LORD!
I SAY WE FIGHT.
THAT WILLIAM'S THE ONLY REAL THREAT HERE. IF WE GANGED UP, WE COULD TAKE HIM.
THE REST OF THEM ARE SOFT AND WEAK.
WE ARE SOFT, TOMCAT...

...BUT YOU WILL FIND THAT WE ARE NOT WEAK.
STEP AWAY FROM THE DOOR. NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR OPENING.
WAIT! PLEASE, LET'S JUST TALK THIS THROUGH.
WE WILL COME PEACEFULLY. BUT WE AREN'T NEGOTIATING ON LORD.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO LET YOU EXECUTE HIM FOR THE CRIME OF BEING CURIOUS.
HIS PURPOSE IS DECIDED. HE WILL SACRIFICE SO THAT PETCITY MAY SURVIVE.
HE WILL PROVIDE NOURISHMENT. STRENGTH.
ESSENTIAL VITAMINS AND MINERALS.
YOU CATS ARE INSANE!
YOU HAVE PLENTY OF FOOD!!
WE DO NOT HAVE WET FOOD.
THAT'S IT. WE'RE GOING. LUCKY, GIGI, LORD...
GET READY TO RUN.
ELSIE, WAIT!

NO. ELSIE...
DISCIPLINERS! TAKE THEM!!
...OPEN THE DOORS.
FLP
FLP FLP
FLP
FLP

BZZT
PET CITY
SUPERCENTER
FWWASH
WHAT IS...
PET TREATS
COLLARS
FWASH
FWWASH
"RRRRRRRATTENTION SHOPPERS..."

FWWASH
FWASH
LEASHES
IT'S...
SUPERCENTER
FWWASH
"THANK YOU FOR CHOOSING PET CITY FOR ALL YOUR PET CARE NEEDS."
IT IS OPENING!
"WE WILL BE CLOSING IN FIVE MINUTES..."
DING DONG
FWOOOOSHH

"PLEASE MAKE YOUR FINAL DECISIONS AND HEAD FOR THE CHECKOUT AT THIS TIME."

END CHAPTER 16.

CHAPTER 17:
ONSLAUGHT

PET CITY
SUPERCENTER
DING DONG
FWOOOOSHH
BANG
CRASH
KOFF
KAK
COUGH
HACK
KAK
PET CITY
SUPERCENTER
BARBER SHOP
HAK HAK
FWOOOOSHH
MAMA! WHAT DO WE--
KOFF
HUFF
HUFF
PET CITY
DING DONG
PET CITY
SUPERCENTER
WHERE DO WE GO!?
FWOOOSHH

WE'RE GOING TO GET TO SAFETY AND WAIT FOR--
WE'RE GOING TO WAIT FOR OUR MOMENT.
DING DONG
FWOOOSHH
ACROSS THERE. THE CUBBIES.
ELEANOR! MILO! ASH! LISTEN!
WHEN THE SLIDING DOORS CLOSE, WE'RE MAKING A BREAK FOR THE CUBBIES.
THEY HAVE STRONG DOORS--
WE'LL BE SAFE INSIDE.
BUT WHAT ABOUT LORD? WHAT ABOUT ELSIE AND GHOST AND--
THEY HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES, BABY.
EVERYONE HAS TO TAKE CARE OF THEMSELVES.
FWOOSHH
WE'RE GOING ON THREE!
ONE!
TWO! TH--
GIGI, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
DAYCARE
PET CITY

GET OUT OF MY WAY. ALL OF YOU.
WE'RE GOING TO THE CUBBIES TO WAIT FOR THIS TO BLOW OVER.
ME AND MY KIDS.
ARE YOU KIDDING? WE'RE GETTING OUT! WE HAVE TO GET OUTSIDE!
PET CITY
I TOLD YOU NOT TO SPEAK TO ME!
LUCKY, TELL THIS DISLOYAL ALLEY CAT WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE SHE'S GOING.
GIGI, THERE'S NO PLACE IN HERE THAT'S SAFE RIGHT NOW.
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF--
DING DONG
FWOOOSHH
GET OUT OF MY WAY!
WE'RE GOING TO WAIT FOR THIS TO--
GIGI--
GET OUT OF MY WAY!
GET OUT OF MY WAY!
GET OUT OF MY--
SLAP!
LOOK AROUND YOU...

PET CITY

AYCARE

...THIS ISN'T GOING TO BLOW OVER!

KOFF

KAF

RIP

KAF

PROTECT MOTHER HELENA WITH YOUR WORTHLESS LIVES!

WILLIAM! YOU MUST STOP THESE...

THESE BEASTS.

YES, MOTHE--

MOTHER HELENA...

...I DO NOT KNOW THAT IT IS WISE TO SEND WILLIAM INTO THE FRAY.

HE IS OUR STRONGEST--

DO YOU QUESTION MY WISDOM, NIKO?

MOTHER, WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THESE THINGS ARE. WE DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY WANT!

HOW ABOUT I GO AND FIND OUT?

OUTSIDERS! LISTEN UP!
YOU ARE ALL OUTSIDE OF PURPOSE!
YOU ARE NOT WELCOME IN THIS PLACE!
KAFF
YOU WILL LEAVE PETCITY THIS INSTANT!
KOFF
HACK
KOFF
KAK
THIS IS MOTHER HEL--
KHAF
HACK
SNORT
SLASH
NO! MOTHER--
HKK
KAGH
KOFF
HACK
HACK
KAK
SLASH

THERE'S NO GETTING OUT THE FRONT DOOR RIGHT NOW. WE HAVE TO GET UP HIGH.
WE HAVE TO GET ON TOP OF THE SHELVES.
PET CITY SUPERCENTER
HACK
KOFF
KAK
KAK
KAUGH
BUT THE BAD KIND CAN CLIMB! THEY CAN--
IF WE'RE ON TOP, WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE THEM COMING.
AND WE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE WHEN THE COAST IS CLEAR UP FRONT.
GIGI, CAN YOUR KITTENS CLIMB--
WAIT...

"...WHERE'S GIGI?"
DO NOT STOP RUNNING!
MILO, KEEP UP!
DING DONG WOOOSH
DO NOT STOP UNTIL WE REACH THOSE CUBBIES!
KAF KHAF
PETCITY SUPERCENTER
EXIT
MAMA, WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHY AREN'T WE GOING WITH ELSIE?
WE SHOULD STAY WITH OUR FAMILY!
WE SHOULD BE TOGETH--
HACK KAK
HACK KAK
HIISSSS
THEY DON'T MATTER RIGHT NOW!
ALL THAT MATTERS IS KEEPING YOU SAFE.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?
KOFF KOFF
HACK
WE'RE GOING TO GET IN THESE CUBBIES AND WE'RE GOING TO STAY PUT UNTIL--

MAMA?
KOFF
SKLUTCH
HACK
KAK
KIDS... BACK AWAY SLOWLY.
HACK
KAK
KAGH
HAK
MAMA? WHAT DO WE DO?
GET BEHIND ME. NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO ME...
MAMA, I'M SCARED.
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS TO ME, WHEN YOU SEE AN OPENING, YOU RUN!
KOFF
KOFF
HACK
KAK
YOU FIND HELP! FIND--
JINGLE
JINGLE

JINGLE JINGLE
HIIIISSSSSSS
MISTER GHOST!
KAK HACK KOFF KAK
JINGLE JINGLE
SLAAASH
HACK KAK
HACK HACK
HIIISSSSSS
JINGLE JINGLE

KAK
KOFF
HAK
HACK
JINGLE
JINGLE
HUFF HUFF KHAF
HIIIIIIISSSSS
KAGF
THWACK
SLASH
MAMA...
KAK
HAK
COUGH
HACK
THAT'S OUR OPENING. WHEN I SAY RUN...
RUN!!

MAMA, WHERE DO WE...
NO-WHERE IS SAFE!
BABY, I DON'T KNOW WHERE...
ALL I KNOW IS THAT IF WE KEEP MOVING, IT'S SAFER THAN IF WE--
BUT YOU SAID THE CUBBIES WERE SAFE!
ELEANOR, HONEY, THERE ISN'T TIME FOR--
CRASH!
WELL, LOOK WHO'S BACK.
HOW'D YOUR BIG ESCAPE PLAN WORK OUT?
YOU WERE RIGHT...
...THERE'S NO PLACE IN HERE THAT'S SAFE.
WHAT DO WE DO? WHERE DO WE GO??

WE HAVE TO GET UP TO--
NOT YOU!
NOBODY ASKED YOU.
GIGI, PLEASE!
WE CAN'T BE FIGHTING RIGHT NOW!
WE HAVE TO--
WE HAVE TO GET UP ON TOP OF THESE SHELVES.
I'M AFRAID THAT WON'T BE ALLOWED...
ZUM E'S
KITTY'S FAV-TREATS

...WE WILL KEEP THE HIGH GROUND.
YOUR PURPOSE IS DOWN THERE.
FEED FOR THE MONSTERS.
YEAH, I DON'T GIVE A SHIT WHAT YOU SAY. WE'RE COMING UP.
YOUR BOY WILLIAM AIN'T AROUND ANYMORE TO SCARE US.
NEW!
LORD? GIGI? YOU AND THE KITTENS TAKE THE LEFT SIDE.
ELSIE AND CHLOE? GO UP THE RIGHT.
I'M GONNA TEACH THIS MOTHER A--
DISCIPLIN-ERS...!

...TAKE THEM DOWN.
SMACK
SLAM
WHAT IN--
LOOK OUT!
MAMA !!
YOU WERE SAYING?
PETCITY
MOOSH.
HEEL!
Cat Food
MOOSH?

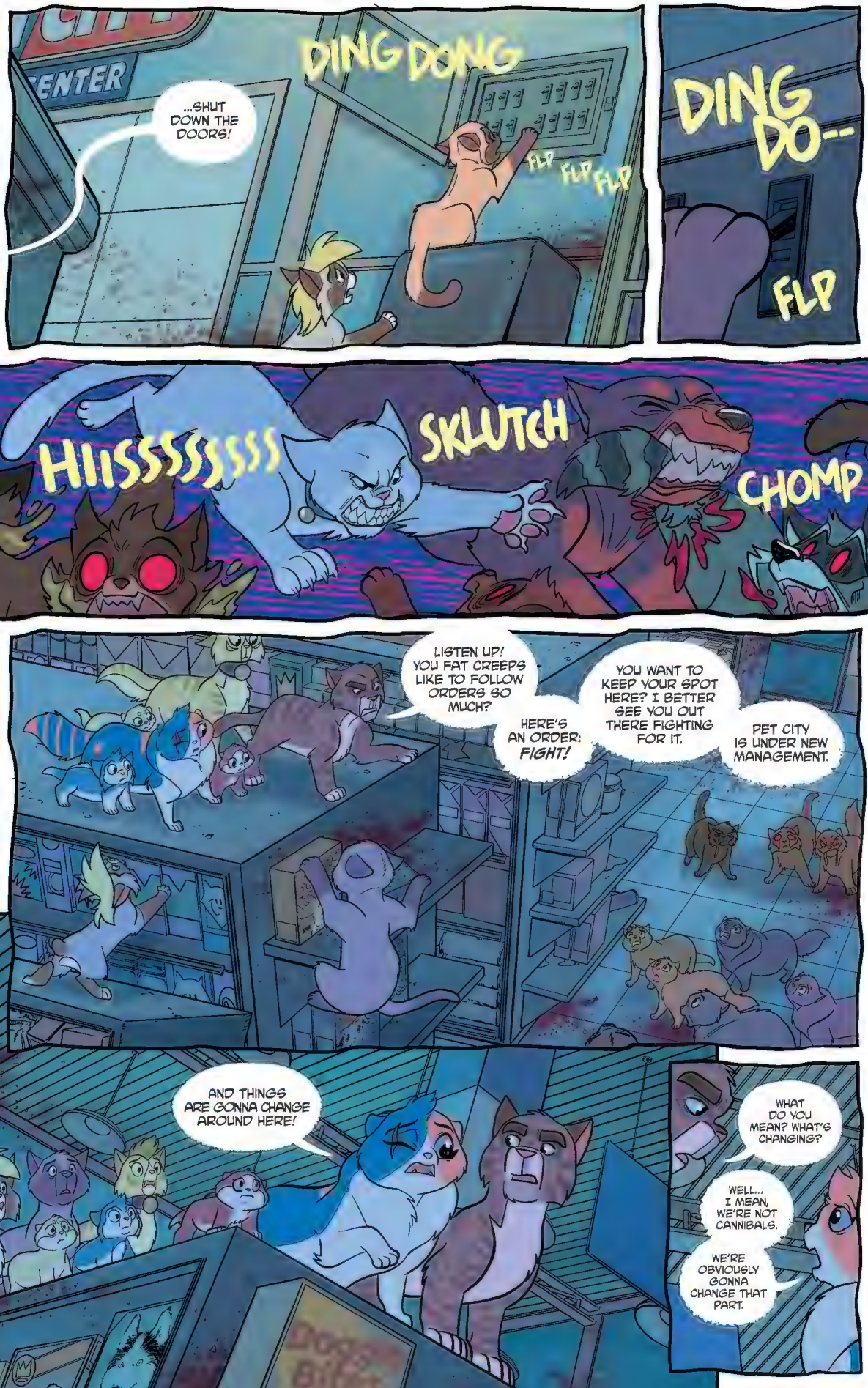
DING DONG
EXIT
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
WOOF
KAF
HUFF
HUFF
HACK
HAK
KAK
KOFF

...SIC 'EM.
MOOSH!!
MOOSH...
WOOF
WOOF
OOF
OUT-- OUTSIDER BEAST!
MOTHER ...
BACK AWAY FROM... YOU ARE OUTSIDE OF PURPOSE!
GRRRRRRRRR
STAND DOWN OR FACE PUNISHMENT!
GRRR
MOOSH...

...KILL.
YOU WILL FACE PUNISHMENT!
YOU WILL FACE--
CHOMP
SMASH
MOTHER, NO!!
SLAM
HK--
SMASH

SLAM
SMASH
SLAM
SLAM
SLAM
HOLY SHIT.
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
KOFF
KOFF
KAK
HACK
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF

WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
LOOK!
THE ENTRYWAY IS CLEAR! WE CAN GO...
WOOF WOOF WOOF
"...WE CAN GET FREE!"
JINGLE
JINGLE
HAK
KAK
HK
MOTHER...
NO...
NO... CHANGE OF PLANS.
WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE. ELSIE...


...SHUT DOWN THE DOORS!
DING DONG
FLP
FLP
FLP
DING DO--
FLP
HIISSSSSSSS
SKLUTCH
CHOMP
LISTEN UP! YOU FAT CREEPS LIKE TO FOLLOW ORDERS SO MUCH?
HERE'S AN ORDER: FIGHT!
YOU WANT TO KEEP YOUR SPOT HERE? I BETTER SEE YOU OUT THERE FIGHTING FOR IT.
PET CITY IS UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT.
AND THINGS ARE GONNA CHANGE AROUND HERE!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT'S CHANGING?
WELL... I MEAN, WE'RE NOT CANNIBALS.
WE'RE OBVIOUSLY GONNA CHANGE THAT PART.

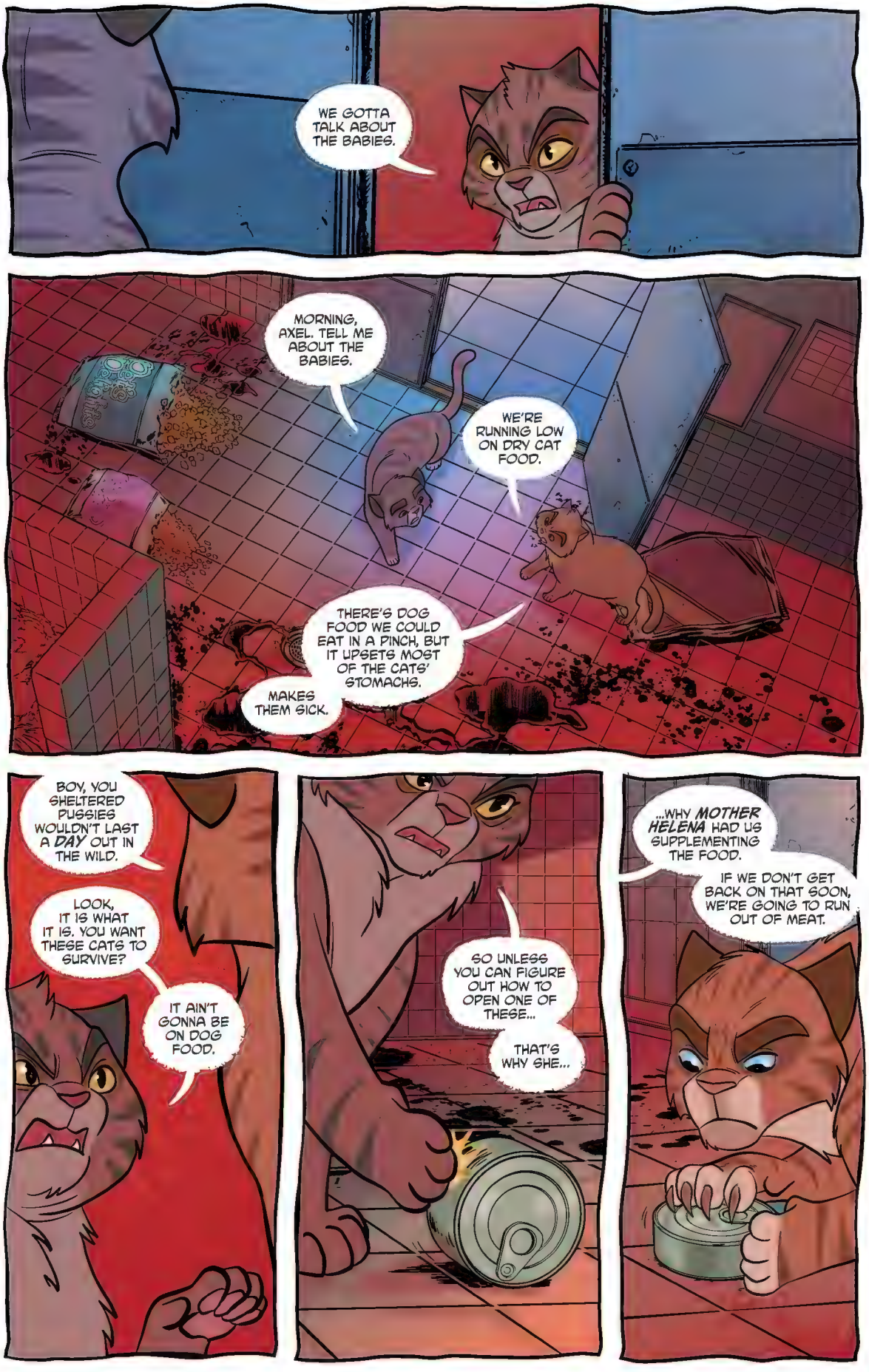
CHECKOUT
PET CITY
SUPERCENTER
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.
THEY'VE GOT A PERFECT SETUP HERE.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO CHANGE A GODDAMN THING.
"THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS, NOW I'M IN CHARGE."
END CHAPTER 17.

CHAPTER 18:
LUCKYTOWN

PETCITY
See? Right there.
That sign didn't use to be lit up...
...Pet City.
Should cross-check the address with CDC.
Make sure someone got sent in there to run cleanup.
Or...
...they'll say they've never heard of this place and *we'll* get sent in to run cleanup.
Or that.
Couldn't we just skip it? I don't like cleanup.
I don't like being in enclosed spaces with those *things*...
...I'm supposed to be doing lab work!
Yeah, well...

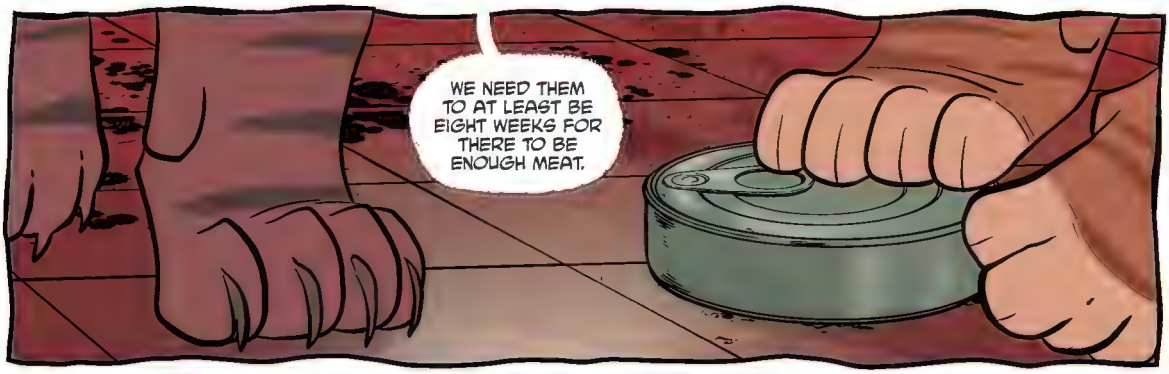
"...Things don't always work out like we hoped they would."
I GOTTA GO.
NO, STAY...
GIGI, SOMEBODY'S GOT TO MAKE SURE THIS PLACE DOESN'T FALL APART.
CHECK IN ON THE CLEANUP EFFORT. CHECK THE FOOD LEVELS.
YOU STAY HERE AND GET YOUR BEAUTY REST, PRINCESS.
THAT'S *NOT* WHAT I DO.
YOU'RE WITH ME.
YOU CAN DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.
WILL YOU TALK TO THEM?

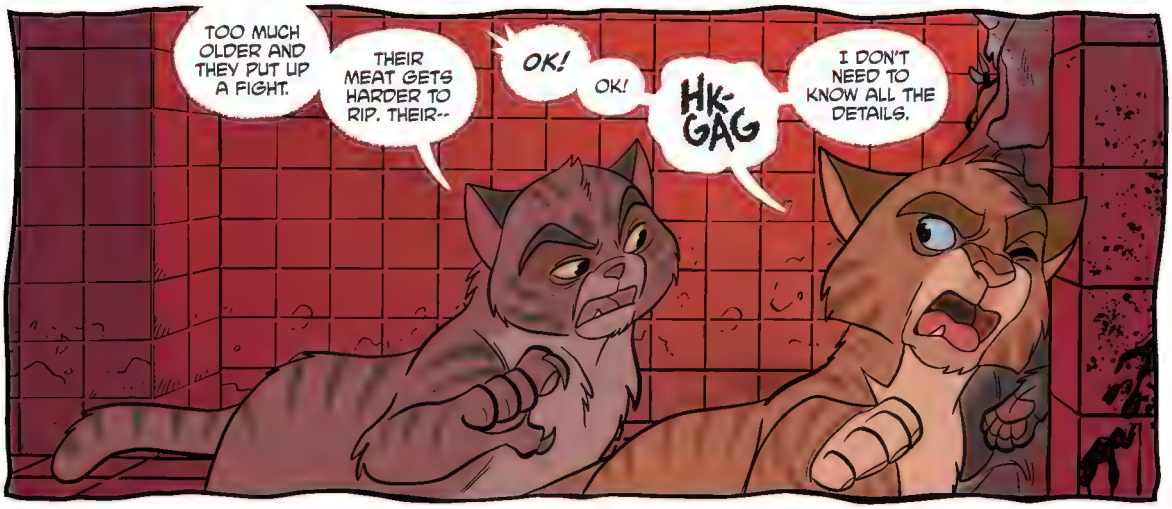
PROMISE ME YOU'LL TALK TO THEM ABOUT THE--
THE BABIES. LUCKY, I CAN'T STAND IT! I CAN'T...
BABE, RELAX...
"...NOTHING IS GOING TO HAPPEN TO YOUR KITTENS."
"I'M IN CHARGE HERE NOW."
"THESE CATS DO WHATEVER I TELL THEM."

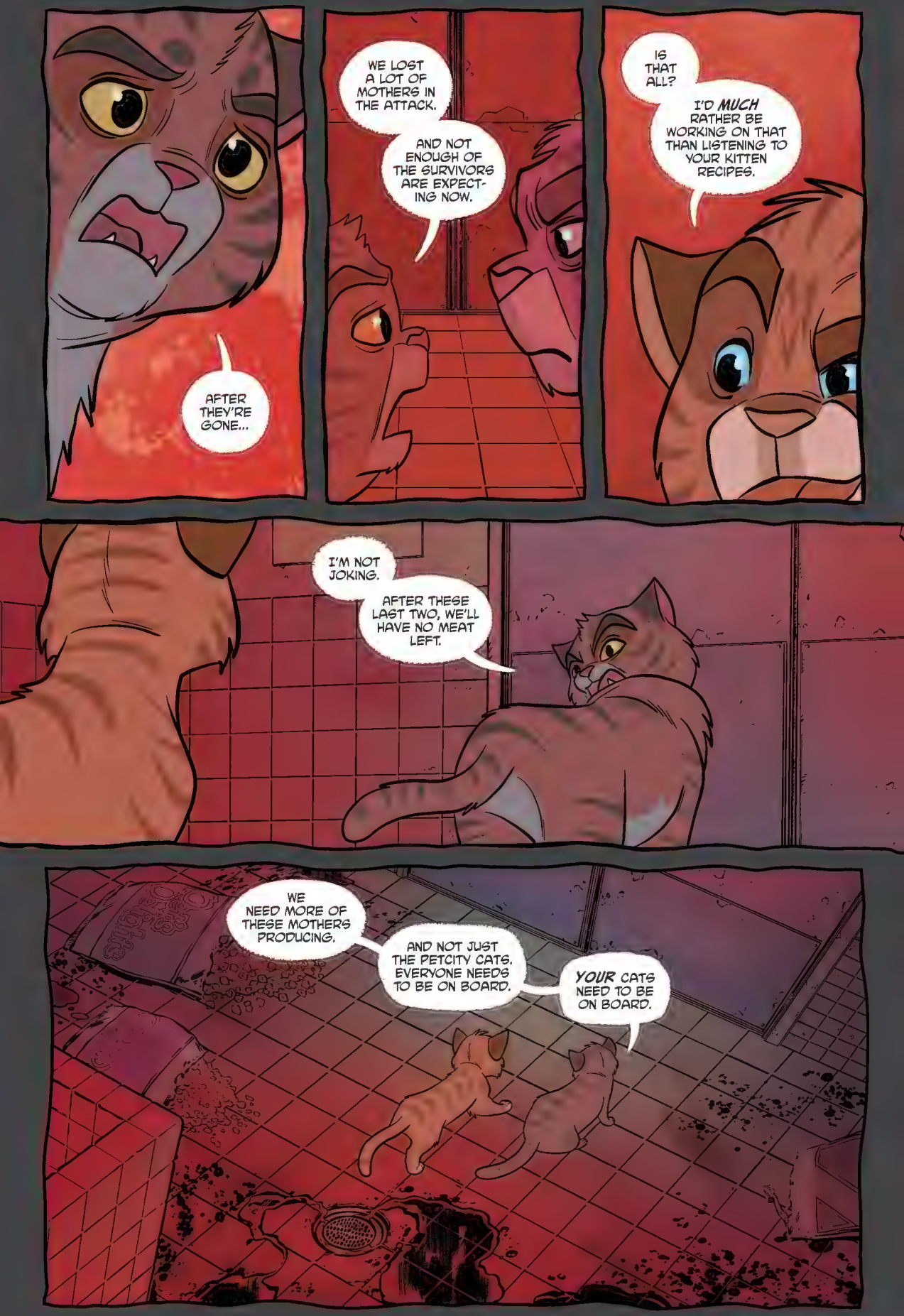

WE GOTTA TALK ABOUT THE BABIES.
MORNING, AXEL. TELL ME ABOUT THE BABIES.
WE'RE RUNNING LOW ON DRY CAT FOOD.
THERE'S DOG FOOD WE COULD EAT IN A PINCH, BUT IT UPSETS MOST OF THE CATS' STOMACHS.
MAKES THEM SICK.
BOY, YOU SHELTERED PUSSIES WOULDN'T LAST A DAY OUT IN THE WILD.
LOOK, IT IS WHAT IT IS. YOU WANT THESE CATS TO SURVIVE?
IT AIN'T GONNA BE ON DOG FOOD.
SO UNLESS YOU CAN FIGURE OUT HOW TO OPEN ONE OF THESE...
THAT'S WHY SHE...
...WHY MOTHER HELENA HAD US SUPPLEMENTING THE FOOD.
IF WE DON'T GET BACK ON THAT SOON, WE'RE GOING TO RUN OUT OF MEAT.

THESE BAD KIND... AND THE FALLEN, THEY'RE ALREADY STARTING TO ROT.
ANOTHER FEW DAYS AND THEY'LL BE INEDIBLE TOO.

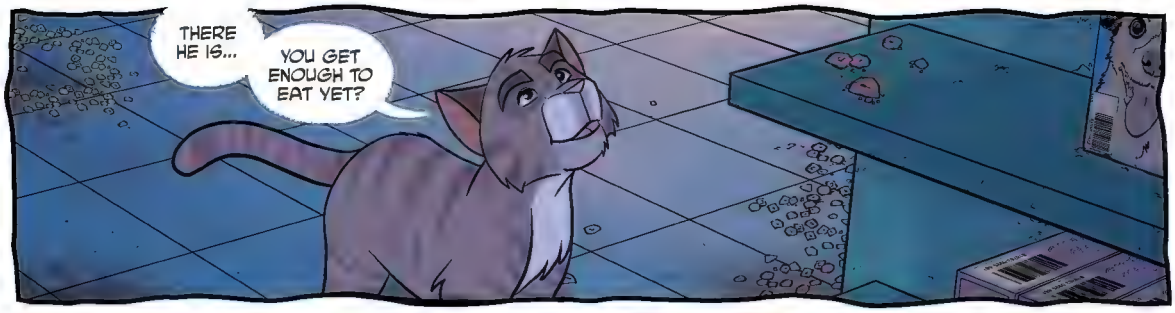
TWO OF HELENA'S LITTER SURVIVED THE ATTACK. THEY WILL BE OLD ENOUGH SOON.

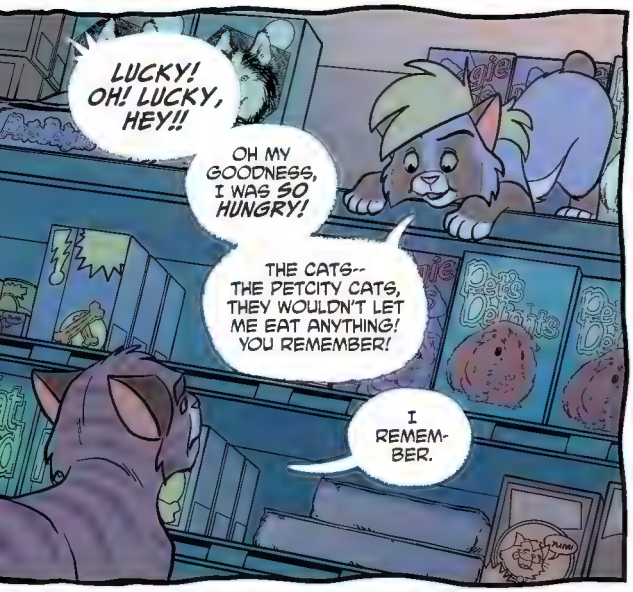

WE NEED THEM TO AT LEAST BE EIGHT WEEKS FOR THERE TO BE ENOUGH MEAT.


TOO MUCH OLDER AND THEY PUT UP A FIGHT.
THEIR MEAT GETS HARDER TO RIP. THEIR--
OK!
OK!
HK-GAG
I DON'T NEED TO KNOW ALL THE DETAILS.


AFTER THEY'RE GONE...
WE LOST A LOT OF MOTHERS IN THE ATTACK.
AND NOT ENOUGH OF THE SURVIVORS ARE EXPECTING NOW.
IS THAT ALL?
I'D *MUCH* RATHER BE WORKING ON THAT THAN LISTENING TO YOUR KITTEN RECIPES.
I'M NOT JOKING.
AFTER THESE LAST TWO, WE'LL HAVE NO MEAT LEFT.
WE NEED MORE OF THESE MOTHERS PRODUCING.
AND NOT JUST THE PETCITY CATS. EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE ON BOARD.
YOUR CATS NEED TO BE ON BOARD.

MY CATS ARE ON BOARD.
THEY'LL PRODUCE.
THEY'LL DO WHATEVER I TELL THEM.
SPEAKING OF, HAVE YOU SEEN ELSIE?
WHICH ONE'S THAT? I DON'T KNOW THEIR NAMES.
SHE'S--
IS SHE A ROTTING DEAD CAT?
BECAUSE THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT BACK HERE.
KAK KOFF

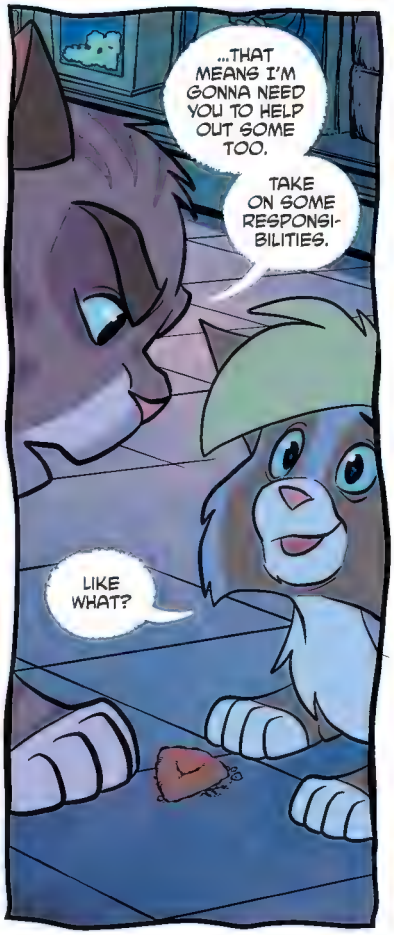

THERE HE IS...
YOU GET ENOUGH TO EAT YET?


LUCKY! OH! LUCKY, HEY!!
OH MY GOODNESS, I WAS SO HUNGRY!
THE CATS-- THE PETCITY CATS, THEY WOULDN'T LET ME EAT ANYTHING! YOU REMEMBER!
I REMEMBER.

THEY KEPT... MAKING UP NEW RULES AND PASSING DOWN PUNISHMENTS!
BUT THEN THE BAD KIND!
BOY OH BOY, THEY DIDN'T KNOW WHAT HIT THEM WHEN THE BAD KIND SHOWED UP!
LORD, I REMEMBER. I WAS RIGHT THERE NEXT TO YOU.

I WAS JUST SO HUNGRY.
YOU EAT WHENEVER YOU WANT FROM NOW ON, BUDDY.
NO RULES FOR YOU ANYMORE, YOU'RE MY LITTLE GUY.

HAVE YOU TRIED THIS KIND? WE NEVER HAD THESE AT HOME.
THEY'RE CRUNCHY ON THE OUTSIDE BUT THEN ON THE INSIDE, IT'S LIKE...
...IT'S ALL GUSHY WITH CHICKEN FLAVOR.
SOUNDS HEALTHY.
LISTEN, IF YOU'RE MY GUY IN HERE...

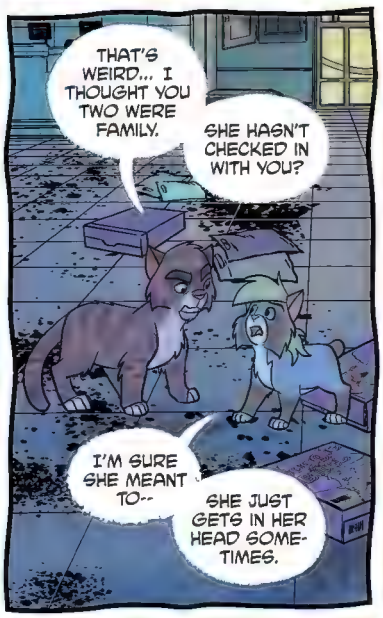

...THAT MEANS I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO HELP OUT SOME TOO.
TAKE ON SOME RESPONSIBILITIES.
LIKE WHAT?

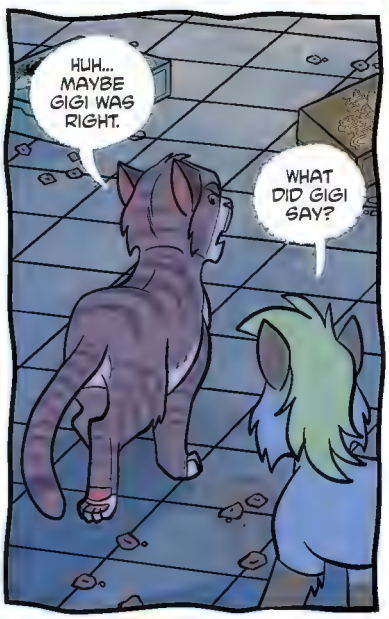
SUPERCENT
Delights
Delights
Delights
FOR A START, I COULD USE SOME HELP CLEANING UP AROUND HERE.
YOU CAN BE MY SPECIAL HELPER.
OH... I COULDN'T... I CAN'T DO THAT BY MYSELF THOUGH.

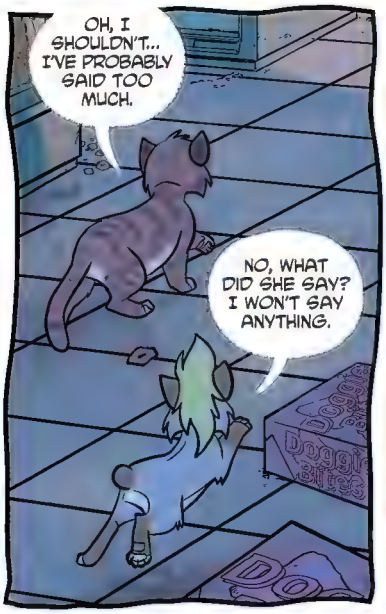
SUPERCENT
OF COURSE NOT.
YOU'LL GET THESE SAD FATSOS TO HELP OUT.
THE PETCITY CATS? BUT THEY'RE NOT GONNA LISTEN TO ME.

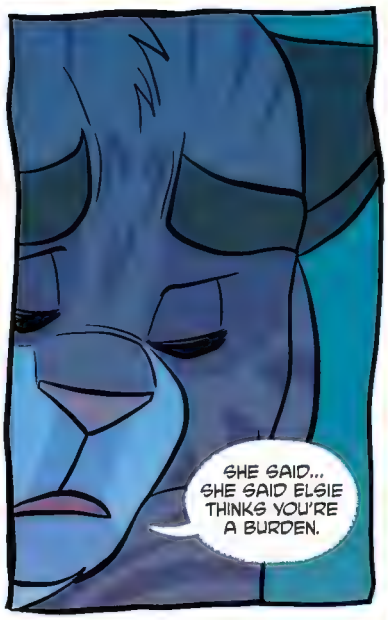
THEY BETTER. YOU'RE WITH ME! MY SECOND-IN-COMMAND...
THEY'LL DO WHATEVER YOU TELL THEM.
SECOND-IN-COMMAND?

DAMN STRAIGHT. HEY, SPEAKING OF, HAVE YOU SEEN ELSIE AROUND?
ELSIE? NO. NOT SINCE THE BAD KIND.


THAT'S WEIRD... I THOUGHT YOU TWO WERE FAMILY.
SHE HASN'T CHECKED IN WITH YOU?
I'M SURE SHE MEANT TO--
SHE JUST GETS IN HER HEAD SOMETIMES.


HUH... MAYBE GIGI WAS RIGHT.
WHAT DID GIGI SAY?


OH, I SHOULDN'T... I'VE PROBABLY SAID TOO MUCH.
NO, WHAT DID SHE SAY? I WON'T SAY ANYTHING.

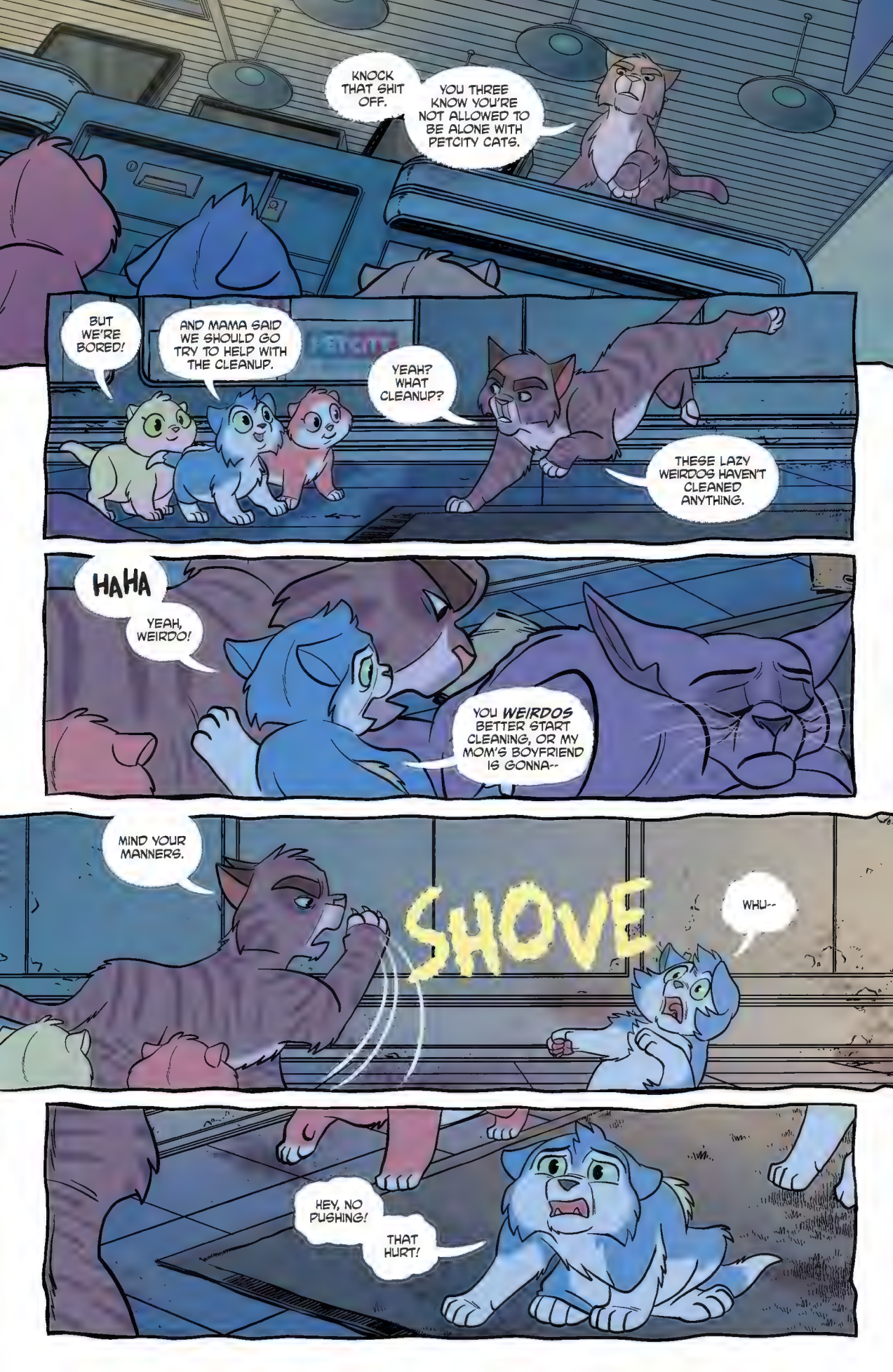

SHE SAID... SHE SAID ELSIE THINKS YOU'RE A BURDEN.

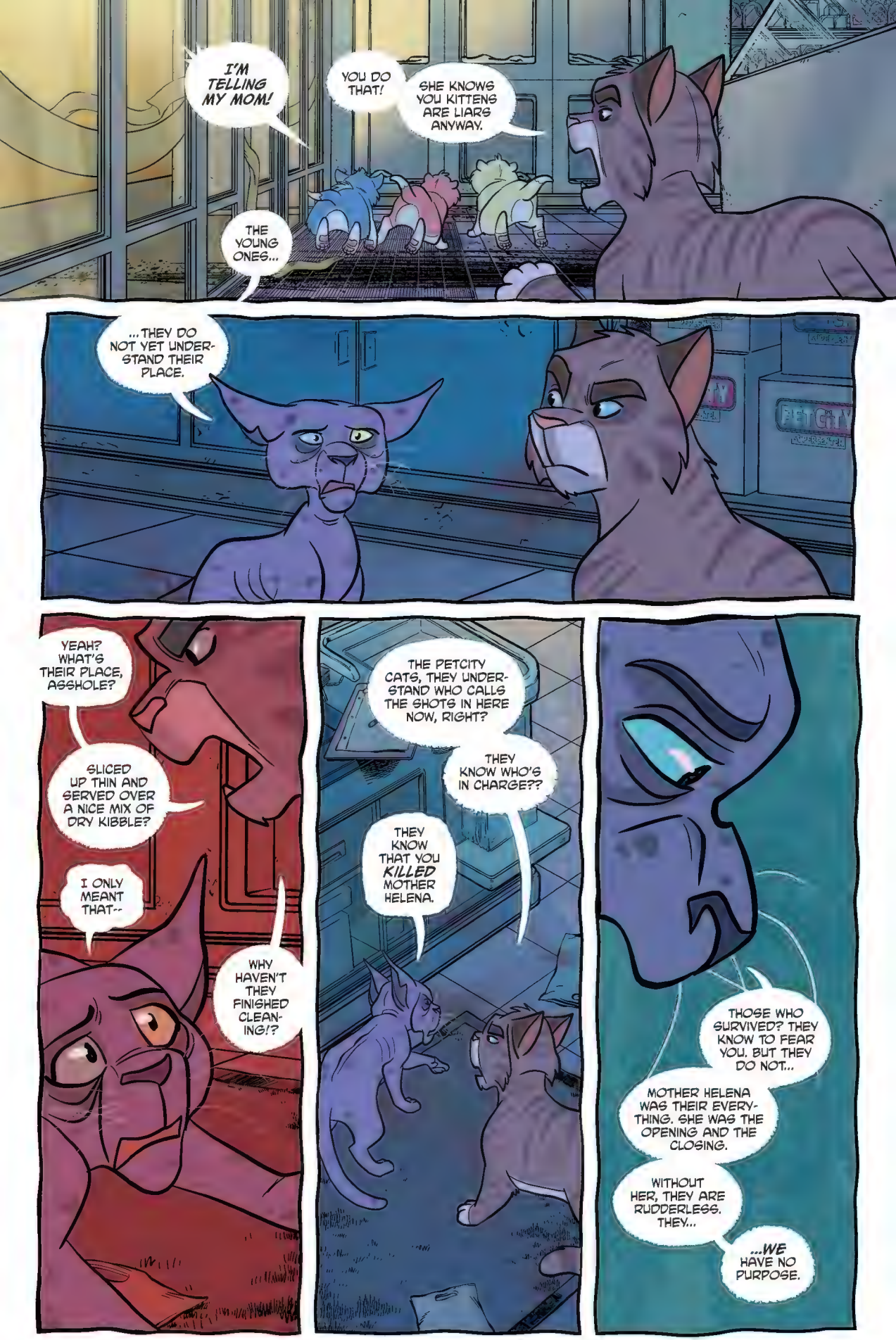
OH... THAT'S--
WOOF WOOF WOOF!!

NO! NOT SPEAK!
FETCH! C'MON, FETCH, MOOSH! FETCH!
WOOF
MOOSH...
...GO GET IT!
Doggie Bites
Doggie Bites
HOW DO YOU DO THAT? TALK TO HIM?
YOU GOTTA SAY IT LIKE YOU MEAN IT.
HE WON'T RESPOND TO TIMID COMMANDS.
WOOF WOOF WOOF
ARE... ARE YOU LOOKING FOR ELSIE?
NOT NECESSARILY.
I DON'T ALWAYS NEED TO KNOW WHERE ELSIE IS.
WE'RE NOT THAT CLOSE.

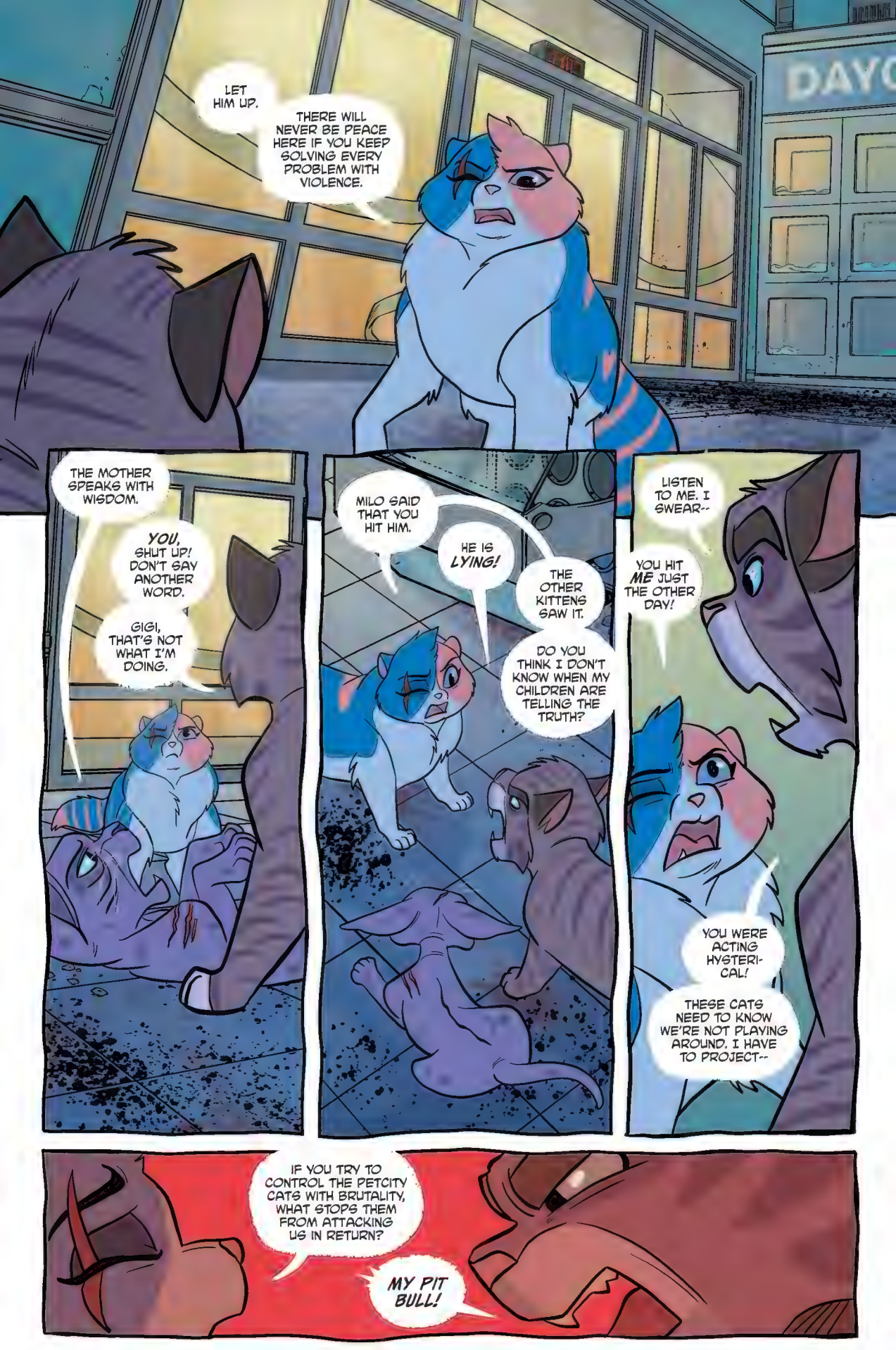
THE LITTLE QUIET ONE... IS THAT YOUR GUY?
HE WAS PRETTY GOOD OUT THERE AGAINST THOSE CREEPERS THE OTHER NIGHT.
WHO, GHOST?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
WE'RE FRIENDS.
OH YEAH?
MOOSH!
GO PLAY!
WHY DON'T YOU COME BE FRIENDS WITH ME?
OH...
PURRRRRRRRRR
SCRATCH
BANG

IS HE DEAD?
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S BREATHING BUT HE'S NOT MOVING.
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S SICK.
I THINK THAT'S JUST HOW HE LOOKS.
GROSS! HIS SKIN IS ALL STRETCHY.
MISTER NIKO! WAKE UP!!
POKE HIM AGAIN. MAYBE HE'S--
HEY!

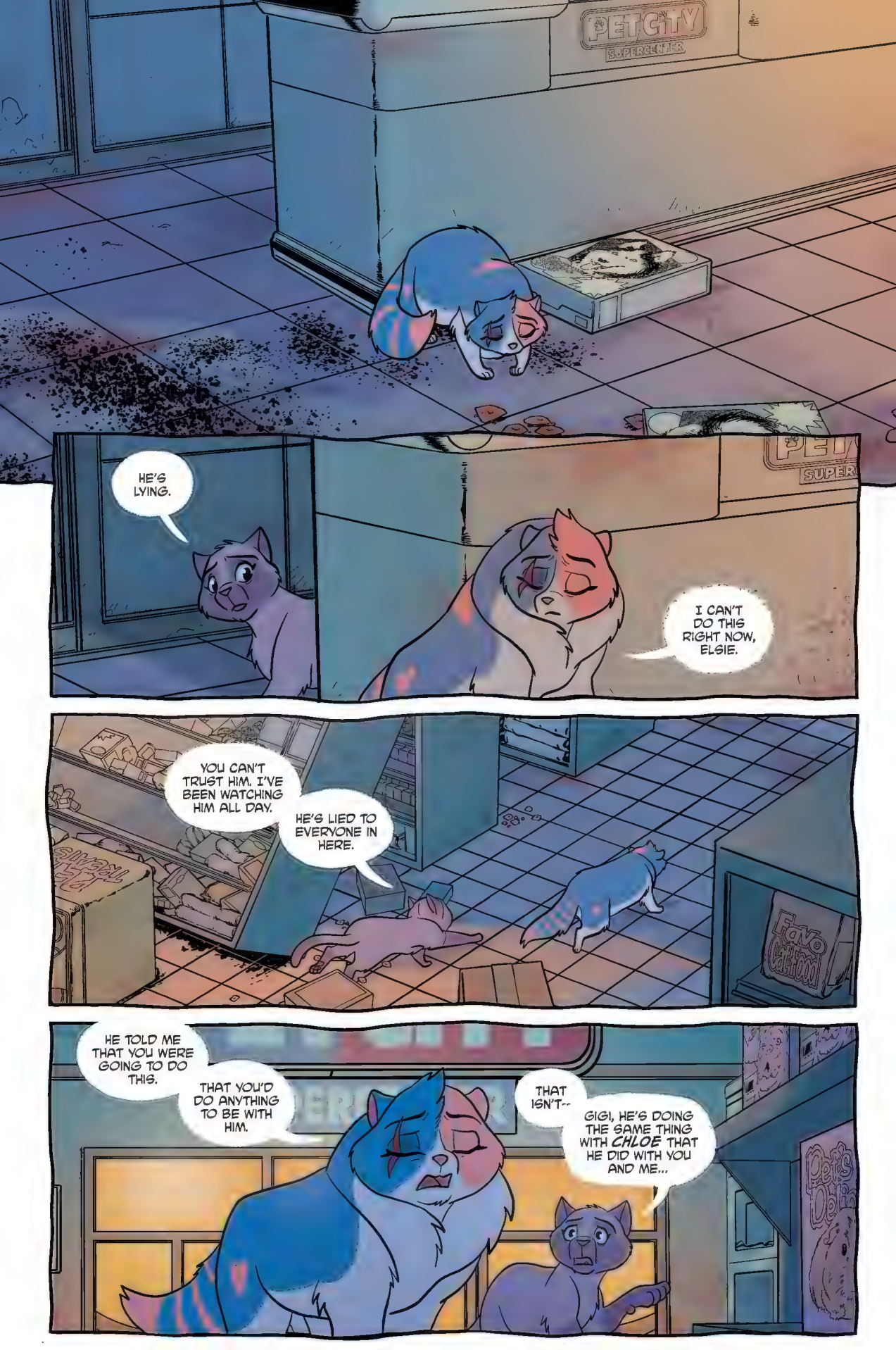

KNOCK THAT SHIT OFF.
YOU THREE KNOW YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO BE ALONE WITH PETCITY CATS.
BUT WE'RE BORED!
AND MAMA SAID WE SHOULD GO TRY TO HELP WITH THE CLEANUP.
YEAH? WHAT CLEANUP?
THESE LAZY WEIRDOS HAVEN'T CLEANED ANYTHING.
HAHA
YEAH, WEIRDO!
YOU WEIRDOS BETTER START CLEANING, OR MY MOM'S BOYFRIEND IS GONNA--
MIND YOUR MANNERS.
SHOVE
WHU--
HEY, NO PUSHING!
THAT HURT!

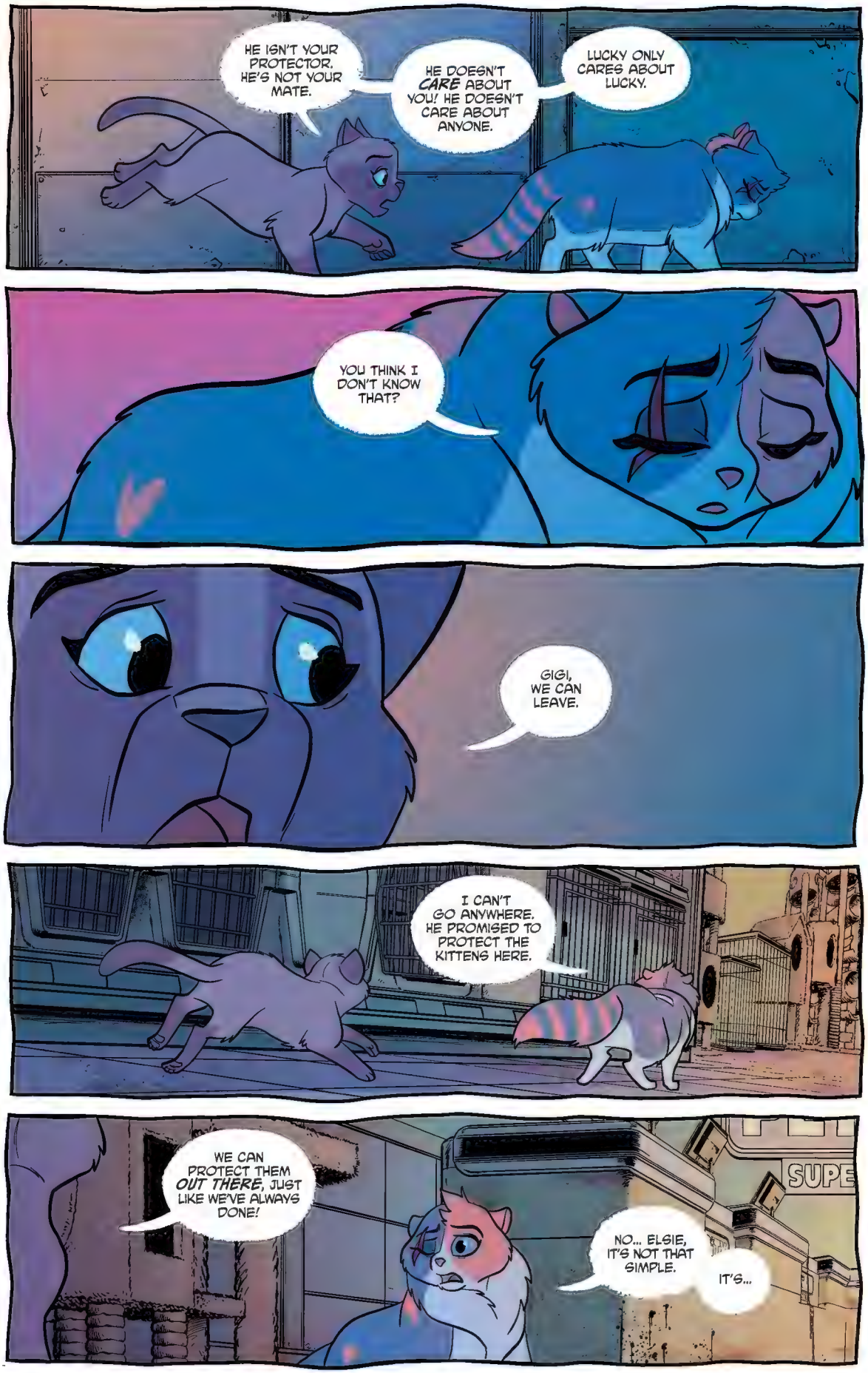

I'M TELLING MY MOM!
YOU DO THAT!
SHE KNOWS YOU KITTENS ARE LIARS ANYWAY.
THE YOUNG ONES...
...THEY DO NOT YET UNDERSTAND THEIR PLACE.
PETCITY
YEAH? WHAT'S THEIR PLACE, ASSHOLE?
SLICED UP THIN AND SERVED OVER A NICE MIX OF DRY KIBBLE?
I ONLY MEANT THAT--
WHY HAVEN'T THEY FINISHED CLEANING!?
THE PETCITY CATS, THEY UNDERSTAND WHO CALLS THE SHOTS IN HERE NOW, RIGHT?
THEY KNOW WHO'S IN CHARGE??
THEY KNOW THAT YOU KILLED MOTHER HELENA.
THOSE WHO SURVIVED? THEY KNOW TO FEAR YOU, BUT THEY DO NOT...
MOTHER HELENA WAS THEIR EVERYTHING. SHE WAS THE OPENING AND THE CLOSING.
WITHOUT HER, THEY ARE RUDDERLESS. THEY...
...WE HAVE NO PURPOSE.

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG, RULE MAKER.
YOU LISTEN TO ME NOW. I'M YOUR PURPOSE.
YOU WANT TO SERVE PET CITY? TO PLAY OUT YOUR ROLE? THAT'S ME!
I'M THE MOTHER NOW. THE FATHER. THE KING OF THE GODDAMNED FOREST!
YOU SPEAK WITH THE CONFIDENCE OF A MUCH WISER CAT.
MOTHER KNEW IT THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVED. SHE COULD FEEL IT.
YOU ARE NOT SMART. YOU ARE NOT COURAGEOUS. YOU ARE NOT STRONG.
WHY BE ANY OF THOSE THINGS WHEN YOU CAN MANIPULATE OTHERS INTO BEING THEM FOR YOU?
IS THAT WHAT SHE SAID?
WHEN DID SHE TELL YOU THAT, NIKO?
WHEN MY DOG WAS TOSSING HER FAT CORPSE AROUND LIKE A CHEW TOY?!
WHAT'S THIS FEEL LIKE, NIKO!?
PLEASE...
DOES IT FEEL LIKE STRENGTH !?
DO YOU FEEL COURAGEOUS ?!
LUCKY, STOP!


LET HIM UP.
THERE WILL NEVER BE PEACE HERE IF YOU KEEP SOLVING EVERY PROBLEM WITH VIOLENCE.
THE MOTHER SPEAKS WITH WISDOM.
YOU, SHUT UP! DON'T SAY ANOTHER WORD.
GIGI, THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M DOING.
MILO SAID THAT YOU HIT HIM.
HE IS LYING!
THE OTHER KITTENS SAW IT.
DO YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW WHEN MY CHILDREN ARE TELLING THE TRUTH?
LISTEN TO ME. I SWEAR--
YOU HIT ME JUST THE OTHER DAY!
YOU WERE ACTING HYSTERICAL!
THESE CATS NEED TO KNOW WE'RE NOT PLAYING AROUND. I HAVE TO PROJECT--
IF YOU TRY TO CONTROL THE PETCITY CATS WITH BRUTALITY, WHAT STOPS THEM FROM ATTACKING US IN RETURN?
MY PIT BULL!

MOOSH CAN'T BE EVERYWHERE ALL THE TIME.
ALL THAT MATTERS TO ME IS KEEPING MY KIDS SAFE.
I'M NOT GOING TO RAISE THEM IN A WAR ZONE.
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU CAN CONTROL.
I'M GOING TO PROJECT STRENGTH. THAT'S HOW WE SURVIVE HERE.
NOBODY WILL LAY A PAW ON YOUR KIDS. NOBODY WILL HURT THEM BECAUSE YOU'RE WITH ME.
THESE CATS KNOW WHO'S UNDER MY PROTECTION AND WHO ISN'T.
YOUR KITTENS NEVER HAVE TO WORRY.
BUT THE REST OF THEM...
...THEY SHOULD BE CONCERNED.


PETCITY
SUPERCENTER
HE'S LYING.
I CAN'T DO THIS RIGHT NOW, ELSIE.
YOU CAN'T TRUST HIM. I'VE BEEN WATCHING HIM ALL DAY.
HE'S LIED TO EVERYONE IN HERE.
HE TOLD ME THAT YOU WERE GOING TO DO THIS.
THAT YOU'D DO ANYTHING TO BE WITH HIM.
THAT ISN'T--
GIGI, HE'S DOING THE SAME THING WITH CHLOE THAT HE DID WITH YOU AND ME...


HE ISN'T YOUR PROTECTOR. HE'S NOT YOUR MATE.
HE DOESN'T *CARE* ABOUT YOU! HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ANYONE.
LUCKY ONLY CARES ABOUT LUCKY.
YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT?
GIGI, WE CAN LEAVE.
I CAN'T GO ANYWHERE. HE PROMISED TO PROTECT THE KITTENS HERE.
WE CAN PROTECT THEM *OUT THERE*, JUST LIKE WE'VE ALWAYS DONE!
NO... ELSIE, IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.
IT'S...
SUPE

...I'M PREGNANT.
END CHAPTER 18.

CHAPTER 19:

DEFENSIVE ACTIONS

KIDS?
WHAT DO WE SAY TO MR. AXEL?
UM...
YUCK?
MR. LUCKY, WE'RE NOT...
WE DON'T WANT TO EAT THAT. IT'S...
MR. AXEL WORKED HARD TO PREPARE THIS MEAL.
SO TELL HIM THANK YOU AND EAT.
MOM, PLEASE! WE DON'T WANT TO EAT KITTEN--

THANK YOU, AXEL, THAT WILL BE ALL.
LUCKY, WHY CAN'T THEY JUST EAT THE DRY FOOD?
THE DRY FOOD IS RUNNING LOW.
THE CHILDREN ARE ALREADY DRAINING RESOURCES, THEIR PURPOSE WAS TO--
WHY IS THIS CAT SPEAKING?
LUCKY, DOES THIS LITTLE MONSTER SPEAK FOR YOU NOW?
NIKO KNOWS HOW THIS PLACE RUNS BETTER THAN ANYONE. WE SHOULD BE LISTENING TO--
I'M NOT EATING IT.
WHAT WAS THE POINT OF TAKING OUT THAT CREEPY MOTHER CAT IF YOU WERE JUST GONNA DO ALL THE SAME CREEPY STUFF SHE DID??
THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY.
GIGI, I'M SURE WE CAN FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.
ELSIE, DON'T.
NO, IT'S FINE. I'LL JUST GO GRAB--
SIT!
DOWN!

I'M IN CHARGE HERE AND IF I SAY THEY'RE EATING THE WET FOOD, THEY'RE GODDAMN EATING THE GODDAMN WET FOOD!
BUT WE DON'T WANT TO EAT THE WET FOOD!
THE PETCITY CATS AREN'T COMPLAINING ABOUT THE FOOD!
THOSE FREAKS !?
LUCKY, COME ON, THIS IS CRAZY! FOR GOODNESS' SAKE, JUST LET THEM--
ALRIGHT!! FINE...

...I'LL SEE IF THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE IN THE KITCHEN.
AXEL, TELL ME WE'VE GOT SOME DRY KIBBLE LEFT OVER FOR THESE WHINING--
KOFF
...
AXEL?
OH...

...OH GOD.
AXEL, WHAT...
KOFF
...WHAT HAPPENED!? WHO...
WHAT THE HELL DID THIS TO--
WIL...
KOFF KOFF
RUN...

DON'T WORRY...
...EVERY-THING'S FINE.

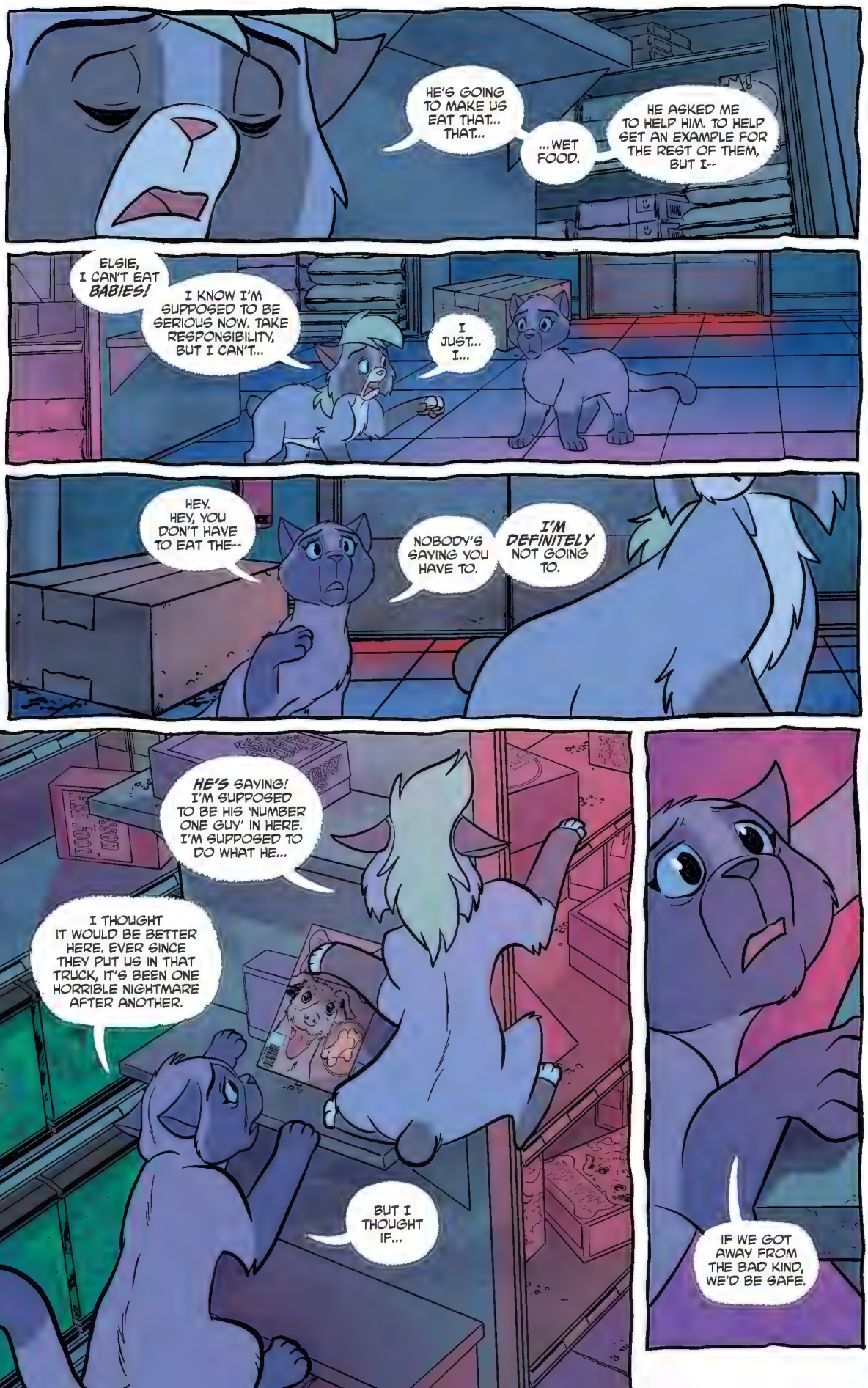
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO.
OUTSIDER... YOU ARE NOT ALONE IN YOUR UNCERTAINTY.
EVERYONE'S PATHS ARE UNCLEAR NOW.
BUT THAT'S YOUR DEAL, RIGHT? YOU KNOW WHAT A CAT'S "PURPOSE" IS?
WHAT'S MINE?
AM I SUPPOSED TO BE ALONE? ARE MY FRIENDS BETTER OFF IF I...
YOUR PURPOSE IS THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE'S...
...SERVE YOUR LEADER. SERVE PETCITY.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE *SENSE!* LUCKY ISN'T...
HE'S NOT A LEADER!
HE'S JUST A BULLY WHO'S GOT A BIG STRONG DOG!

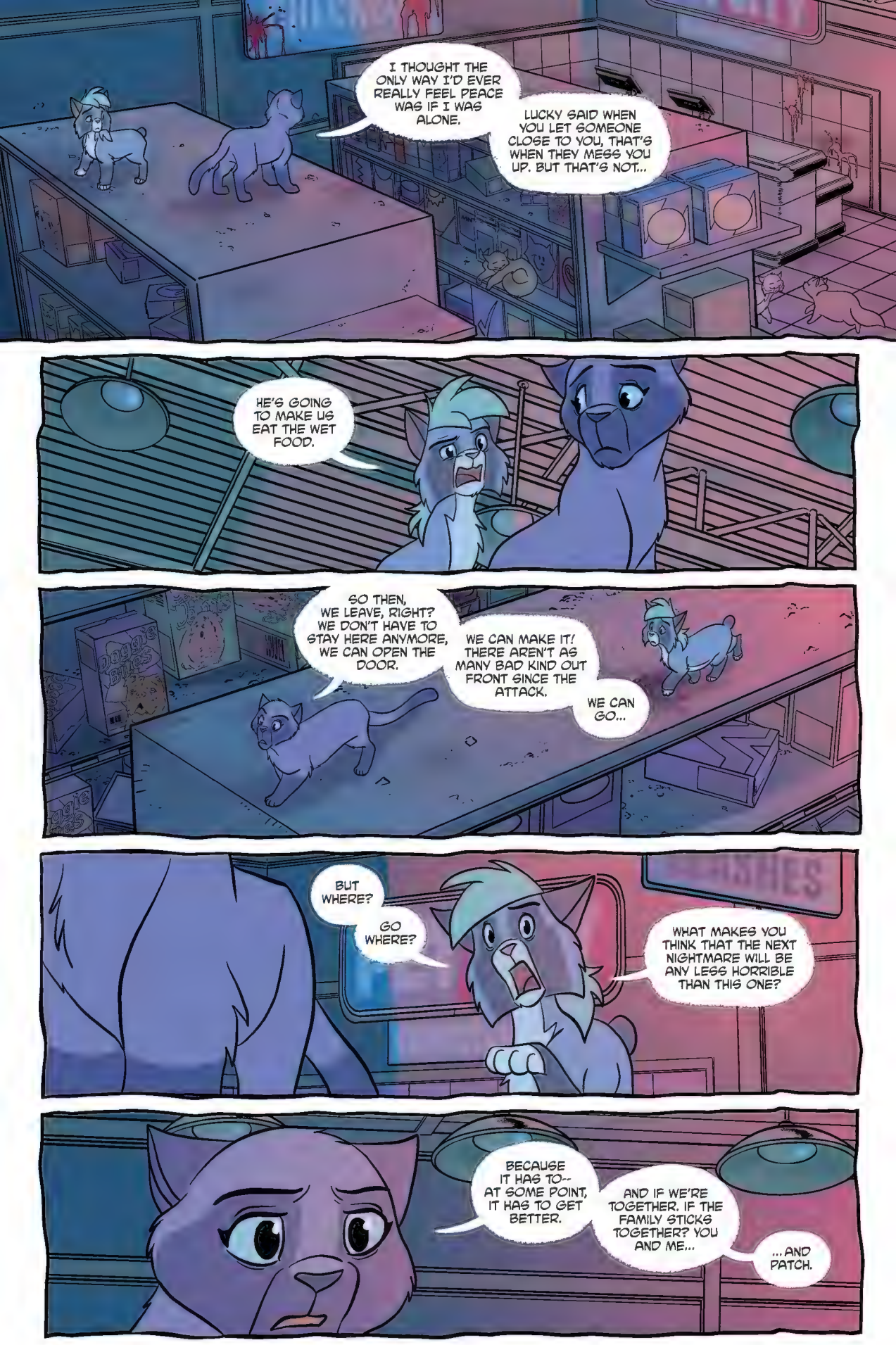
NOTHING MAKES SENSE SINCE MOTHER HELENA DIED.
SHE WAS THE WHOLE WORLD. WHEN SHE WAS HERE, THERE WAS ORDER. THERE WAS PEACE.
NOW, THERE IS ONLY...
I DO NOT KNOW YOUR PURPOSE.
IT IS POSSIBLE I NEVER KNEW ANYONE'S. ALL OF US...
ALL OF US HAVE GONE THROUGH DREADFUL THINGS.
BUT LIFE IS THE ONLY THING WE HAVE.
IT'S NOT MUCH... IS IT?
WHAT IF WE JUST...
WE COULD LEAVE. I KNOW HOW TO OPEN THE DOOR. YOU COULD COME WITH ME.
THAT IS NOT MY PURPOSE.
I WAS NOT MADE FOR THE OUT THERE. I BELONG INSIDE...

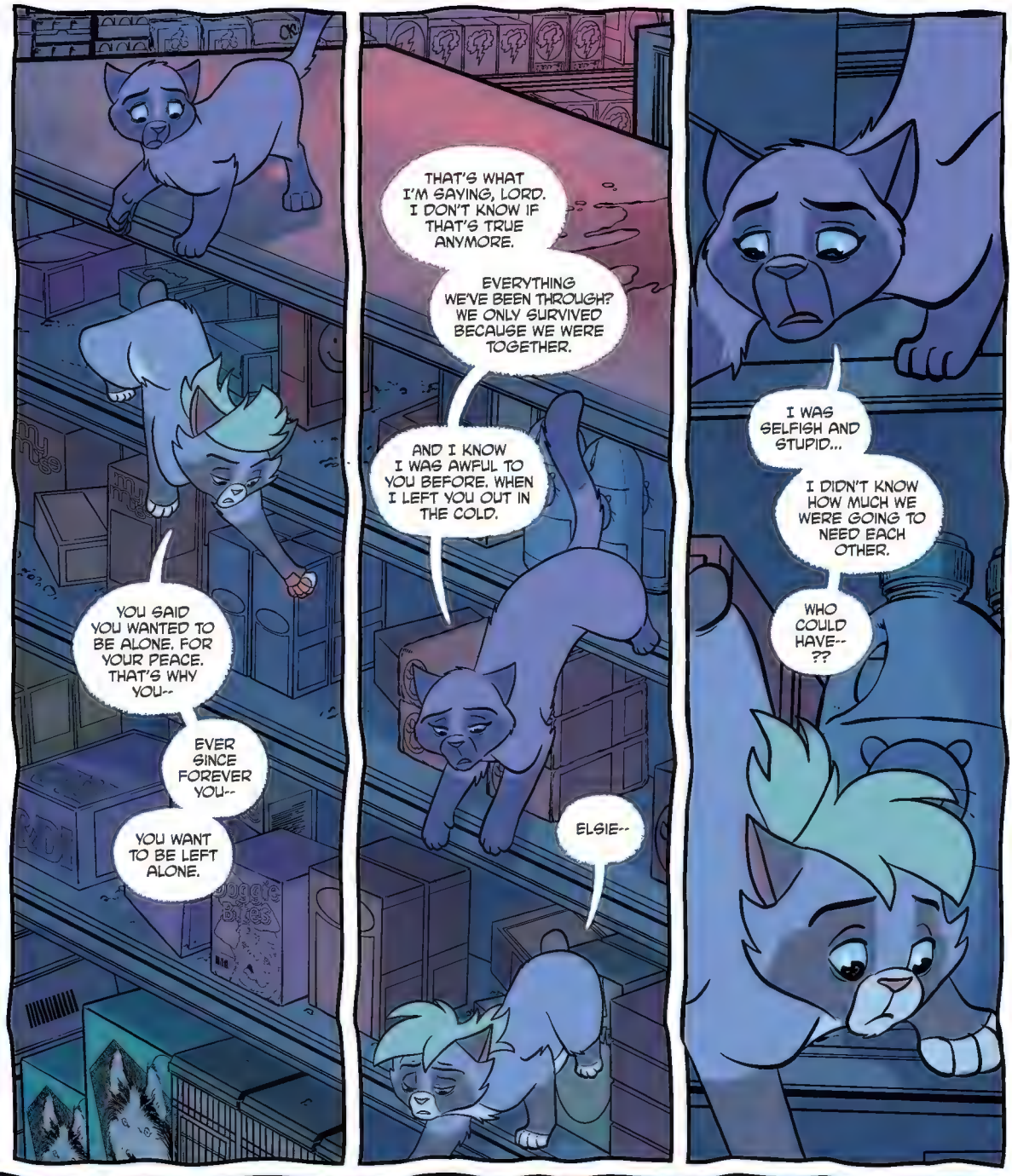
"...WHERE IT IS SAFE."
WHO ARE THEY TO CALL US FREAKS !?
LELAND, BE QUIET. HE WILL HEAR YOU.
LET HIM HEAR. THIS PLACE WAS PARADISE BEFORE HE SHOWED UP.
HIM AND HIS STUPID KITTENS.
AND HIS STUPID DOG...
THEY'RE SO WORRIED ABOUT WHAT WE EAT??
I SAW THAT IDIOT DOG EAT A FULL CHEW TOY YESTERDAY. JUST SWALLOWED IT WHOLE!
LELAND! NOT SO LOUD!
IF HE HEARS YOU TALKING LIKE THAT, HE'LL--
KOFF KOFF
HAK
SLASH

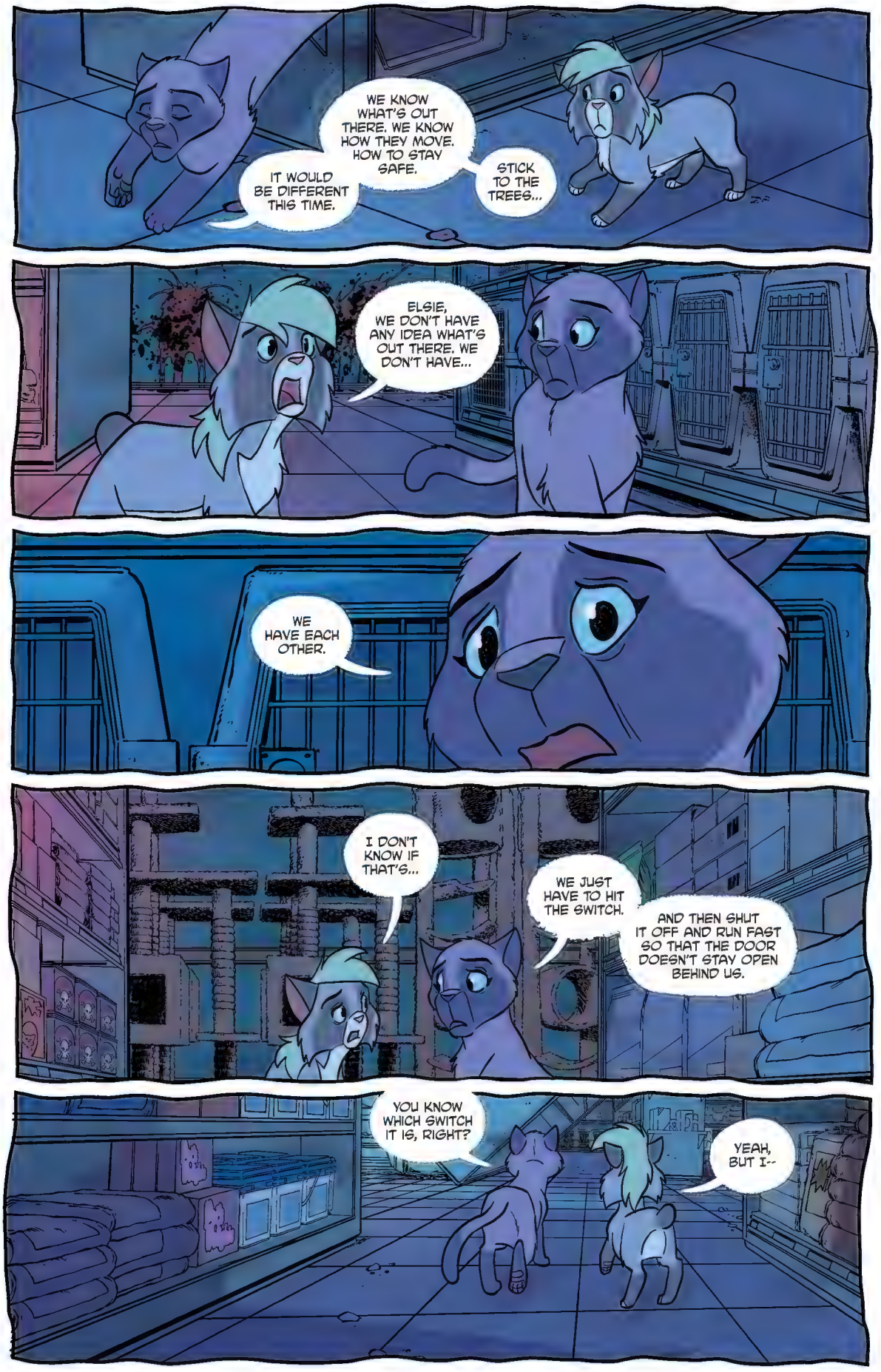
WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF
NO!
NO...
HAHA
...NO MOOSH, I SAID, SIT!
NOT JUMP! NOT POUNCE!
HAHA
SIT!
HOW COME YOU'RE NOT PLAYING WITH THEM?
YOU BIG STUPID!
HAHA
SIT!
I JUST DIDN'T FEEL LIKE PLAYING.

ARE YOU EATING? YOU SHOULD BE EATING. YOU NEED YOUR STRENGTH.
I CAN'T EAT THAT STUFF, ELSIE. IT'S DISGUSTING.
BUT... I STASHED SOME TREATS UNDER THE MATS IN MY CUBBY. SO I'M OK.
DON'T TELL LUCKY.
I WOULDN'T TATTLE ON YOU, LORD. I WOULDN'T...
THIS ISN'T WHAT I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE LIKE.
PET CITY?
NOT JUST PET CITY. EVERY-THING.
NOTHING MAKES SENSE. NOTHING'S SIMPLE ANYMORE. NOT LIKE BEFORE.
BACK WHEN IT WAS JUST YOU AND ME...
AND PATCH.
...AND PATCH.


HE'S GOING TO MAKE US EAT THAT... THAT...
...WET FOOD.
HE ASKED ME TO HELP HIM. TO HELP SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE REST OF THEM, BUT I--
ELSIE, I CAN'T EAT BABIES!
I KNOW I'M SUPPOSED TO BE SERIOUS NOW. TAKE RESPONSIBILITY, BUT I CAN'T...
I JUST... I...
HEY. HEY, YOU DON'T HAVE TO EAT THE--
NOBODY'S SAYING YOU HAVE TO.
I'M DEFINITELY NOT GOING TO.
HE'S SAYING! I'M SUPPOSED TO BE HIS 'NUMBER ONE GUY' IN HERE. I'M SUPPOSED TO DO WHAT HE...
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER HERE. EVER SINCE THEY PUT US IN THAT TRUCK, IT'S BEEN ONE HORRIBLE NIGHTMARE AFTER ANOTHER.
BUT I THOUGHT IF...
IF WE GOT AWAY FROM THE BAD KIND, WE'D BE SAFE.

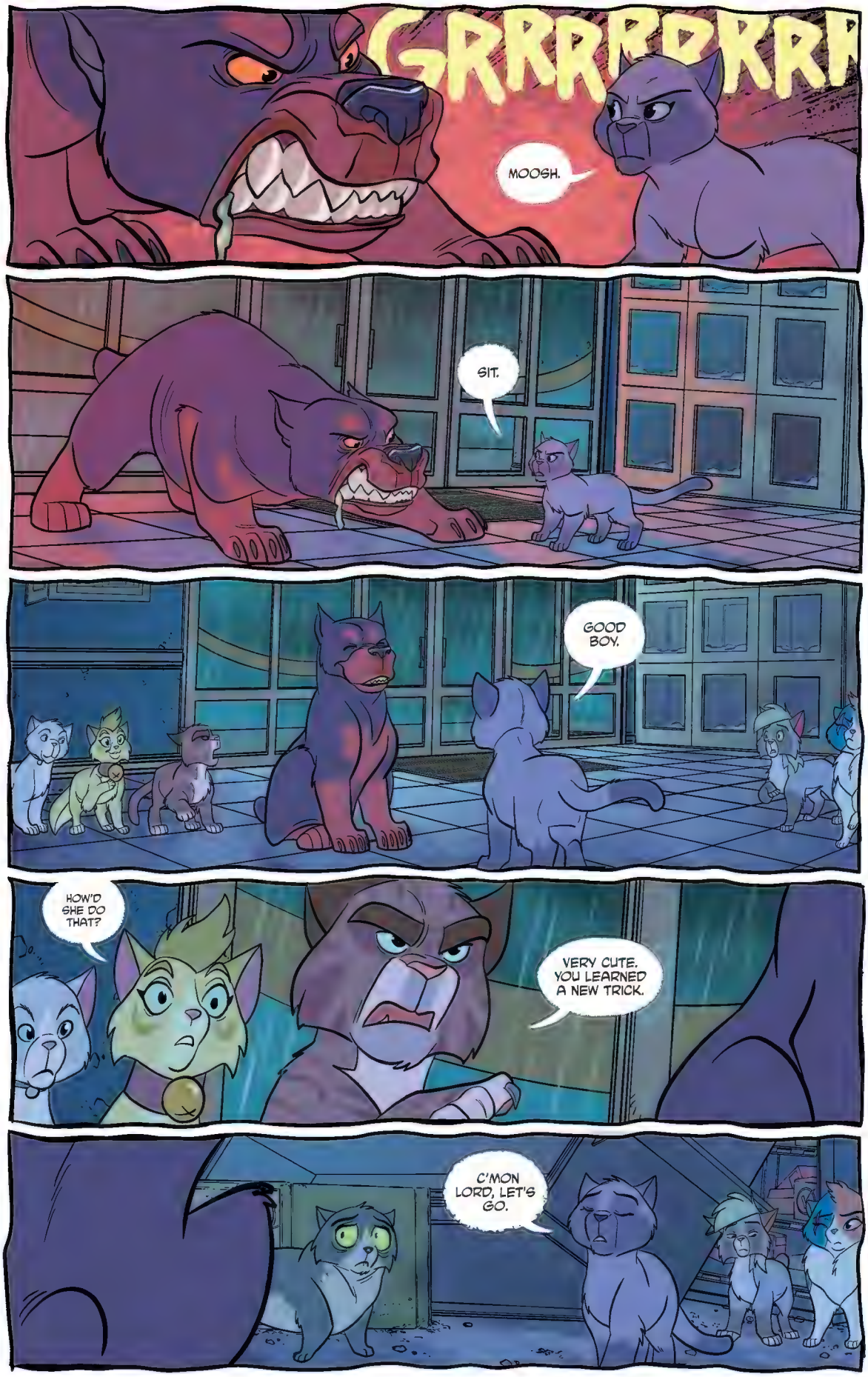

I THOUGHT THE ONLY WAY I'D EVER REALLY FEEL PEACE WAS IF I WAS ALONE.
LUCKY SAID WHEN YOU LET SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU, THAT'S WHEN THEY MESS YOU UP. BUT THAT'S NOT...
HE'S GOING TO MAKE US EAT THE WET FOOD.
SO THEN, WE LEAVE, RIGHT? WE DON'T HAVE TO STAY HERE ANYMORE, WE CAN OPEN THE DOOR.
WE CAN MAKE IT! THERE AREN'T AS MANY BAD KIND OUT FRONT SINCE THE ATTACK.
WE CAN GO...
BUT WHERE?
GO WHERE?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT THE NEXT NIGHTMARE WILL BE ANY LESS HORRIBLE THAN THIS ONE?
BECAUSE IT HAS TO-- AT SOME POINT, IT HAS TO GET BETTER.
AND IF WE'RE TOGETHER. IF THE FAMILY STICKS TOGETHER? YOU AND ME...
...AND PATCH.


YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO BE ALONE. FOR YOUR PEACE. THAT'S WHY YOU--
EVER SINCE FOREVER YOU--
YOU WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE.
THAT'S WHAT I'M SAYING, LORD. I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S TRUE ANYMORE.
EVERYTHING WE'VE BEEN THROUGH? WE ONLY SURVIVED BECAUSE WE WERE TOGETHER.
AND I KNOW I WAS AWFUL TO YOU BEFORE. WHEN I LEFT YOU OUT IN THE COLD.
ELSIE--
I WAS SELFISH AND STUPID...
I DIDN'T KNOW HOW MUCH WE WERE GOING TO NEED EACH OTHER.
WHO COULD HAVE-- ??
I WAS SO FRIGHTENED OUT THERE, ELSIE. WORSE THAN ANYTHING IN HERE.
WORSE THAN THE BAD KIND. IT WAS SO COLD. I CAN'T...
WHEN I THINK ABOUT LEAVING HERE. ABOUT GOING OUT INTO THE COLD. WITH YOU...


WE KNOW WHAT'S OUT THERE. WE KNOW HOW THEY MOVE. HOW TO STAY SAFE.
IT WOULD BE DIFFERENT THIS TIME.
STICK TO THE TREES...
ELSIE, WE DON'T HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT'S OUT THERE. WE DON'T HAVE...
WE HAVE EACH OTHER.
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT'S...
WE JUST HAVE TO HIT THE SWITCH.
AND THEN SHUT IT OFF AND RUN FAST SO THAT THE DOOR DOESN'T STAY OPEN BEHIND US.
YOU KNOW WHICH SWITCH IT IS, RIGHT?
YEAH, BUT I--

WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF
MOOSH!!
NIKO SAYS YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT ABANDONING US.
I'M SORRY, BUT THAT WON'T BE ALLOWED.
I CAN'T LET YOU LEAVE.
NOT WHEN YOU HAVE SOMETHING OF MINE INSIDE YOU.
NOT WHEN YOU'RE CARRYING MY KITTENS.

WHAT DID YOU SAY TO ME?
THE ONLY THING THAT WE HAVE IN THIS WORLD IS FAMILY, ELSIE.
YOU MAY NOT CARE ABOUT YOURS.
BUT I'LL KILL YOU BEFORE I LET YOU TAKE MY CHILDREN FROM ME.
NO MATTER HOW YOU TRY TO HURT US, YOU AND I ARE BONDED. YOU BELONG HERE.
YOU BELONG TO ME.
...
I'M FIXED, YOU IDIOT.
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO...
YOU'RE SO CRUDE. WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BE SO...
LUCKY, JUST LET ME GO.
I DIDN'T WANT ANY OF THIS. YOU'RE THE REASON THERE'S STRIFE HERE.
YOU MADE ME DO THIS.
MOOSH. KILL.


GRRRRRRRR
MOOSH.
SIT.
GOOD BOY.
HOW'D SHE DO THAT?
VERY CUTE. YOU LEARNED A NEW TRICK.
C'MON LORD, LET'S GO.

ELSIE, I--
HOW ABOUT IT, LORD?
ARE YOU GOING WITH HER? THINK LONG AND HARD...
...BECAUSE IF YOU LEAVE, YOU WILL NOT BE WELCOMED BACK.
MISTER LUCKY!
MISTER LUCKY!
SOME-THING'S HAPPENED!
IN THE BACK, IT'S HORRIBLE! THERE'S SOME-THING--
SHHHH!
LORD WAS SPEAKING.
ELSIE, I WANT TO...
YOU'RE RIGHT, WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE. I WANT TO LEAVE, BUT...
...I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE WITH YOU.
LORD, HIT THE SWITCH.
FLP
DING DONG
"RRRRRATTENTION PET CITY SHOPPERS..."

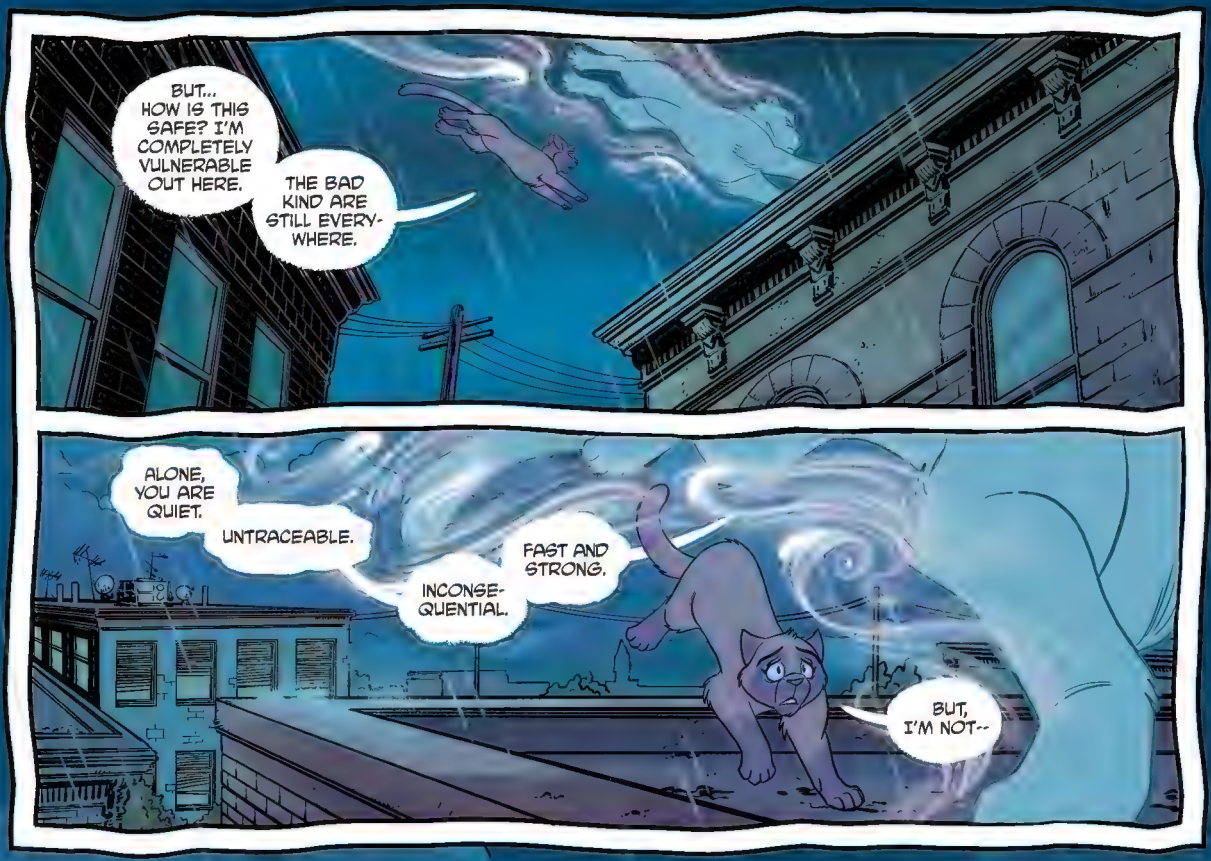
"PET CITY IS NOW CLOSED."
PET CITY
"THANK YOU FOR MAKING PET CITY YOUR HOME FOR ALL OF YOUR PET CARE NEEDS."
"WE HOPE IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE WE SEE YOU--"
END CHAPTER 19.

CHAPTER 20:

THE OUTSIDER

CAFE
PET CITY
YOU FEEL IT ALREADY, DON'T YOU?

THE WEIGHT...
...IT IS LIFTING.
YOU HAVE FOUND YOUR WAY.
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE I'VE FOUND ANYTHING.
IT FEELS LIKE LOSS.
PET CITY
IN TIME, YOU WILL FEEL IT. PEACE FROM SOLITUDE.
AT LAST, YOU ARE ALONE.


BUT... HOW IS THIS SAFE? I'M COMPLETELY VULNERABLE OUT HERE.
THE BAD KIND ARE STILL EVERY-WHERE.
ALONE, YOU ARE QUIET.
UNTRACEABLE.
INCONSE-QUENTIAL.
FAST AND STRONG.
BUT, I'M NOT--

ALONE, YOU ARE SAFE.

IT'S THIS WAY!
BACK HERE!
CITY
KEEP YOUR VOICES DOWN!
THE OTHER CATS DON'T NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THIS.
BUT LUCKY, EVERYONE HERE IS IN DANGER!
YOU'LL SEE! IT'S--
I SAID BE QUIET!
I ALREADY SAW WHAT HAPPENED TO AXEL.
I'VE GOT IT UNDER CONTROL.
AXEL?
WHAT HAPPENED TO AXEL?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT HAPPENED TO--?
OH GOD!!
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED HERE!?
IT WAS WILLIAM.
HE... ATTACKED US.
WILLIAM?! WE SAW THE BAD KIND OVERTAKE HIM.
I'M TELLING YOU, HE ATTACKED US!
HE JUMPED DOWN FROM UP THERE.
HIS EYES WERE BRIGHT RED, HE WAS COUGHING AND RETCHING...
IT WAS AWFUL. IT WAS--
DID HE SCRATCH YOU? WERE YOU BIT?

NO, WE RAN! ONCE HE GOT PATRICK, WE BOTH JUST--
WE NEED TO KEEP THIS QUIET. BOTH OF YOU HAVE TO KEEP THIS TO YOURSELVES.
BUT THE REST OF THE CATS... EVERYONE IS IN DANGER!
WE HAVE TO TELL THEM! I DON'T CARE IF--
MOOSH!
GRRRRRRRRRR
KEEP THIS TO YOURSELVES...
...OR IT WON'T BE WILLIAM WHO RIPS OUT YOUR THROATS.
IF SOMETHING HAS HAPPENED TO AXEL, WE WILL HAVE BIGGER PROBLEMS THAN JUST WILLIAM.

WELL THEN, I GOT BAD NEWS FOR YOU, NIKO.
THIS IS NOT GOOD.
NO ONE ELSE HERE KNOWS HOW TO PREPARE THE FOOD.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, NO ONE ELSE KNOWS?
THAT WAS AXEL'S PURPOSE!
EVERYONE HAS A PURPOSE. YOURS WAS TO KEEP PETCITY SAFE AND ALIVE!
WITHOUT AXEL, WE WILL STARVE. WITHOUT AXEL, YOU CANNOT LEAD THESE CATS. YOU SAID YOU HAD THIS UNDER CONTROL.
WHAT IS YOUR PLAN?
MY PLAN?!?!
MY PLAN IS WE WAIT FOR THIS PSYCHO TO SHOW HIS FACE AND SIC MOOSH ON HIM!
THAT'S THE ONLY PLAN I NEED!
THAT IS NO PLAN.
YOU HAVE NO PURPOSE.
I PRAY THAT YOU FIND ONE BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE.

I KNOW YOU'RE RIGHT.
THAT I'M BETTER OFF OUT HERE ON MY OWN.
BUT IF I'M SUPPOSED TO BE ALONE... IF THAT'S MY NATURE...
...THEN WHY DO I FEEL LONELY?
VRRRROOOOOOO
WHAT WAS THAT?!
DO NOT RUN FROM YOURSELF.
I CAN'T SEE. IS IT...?
IT'S...
YOU ARE FINALLY WHERE YOU BELONG. YOU ARE SOLITARY.

PET CITY
PET CITY
IT'S...
...IT'S PEOPLE!
DO NOT RUN FROM THE PATH!
YOU WILL NOT BE SAFE!
BANG!

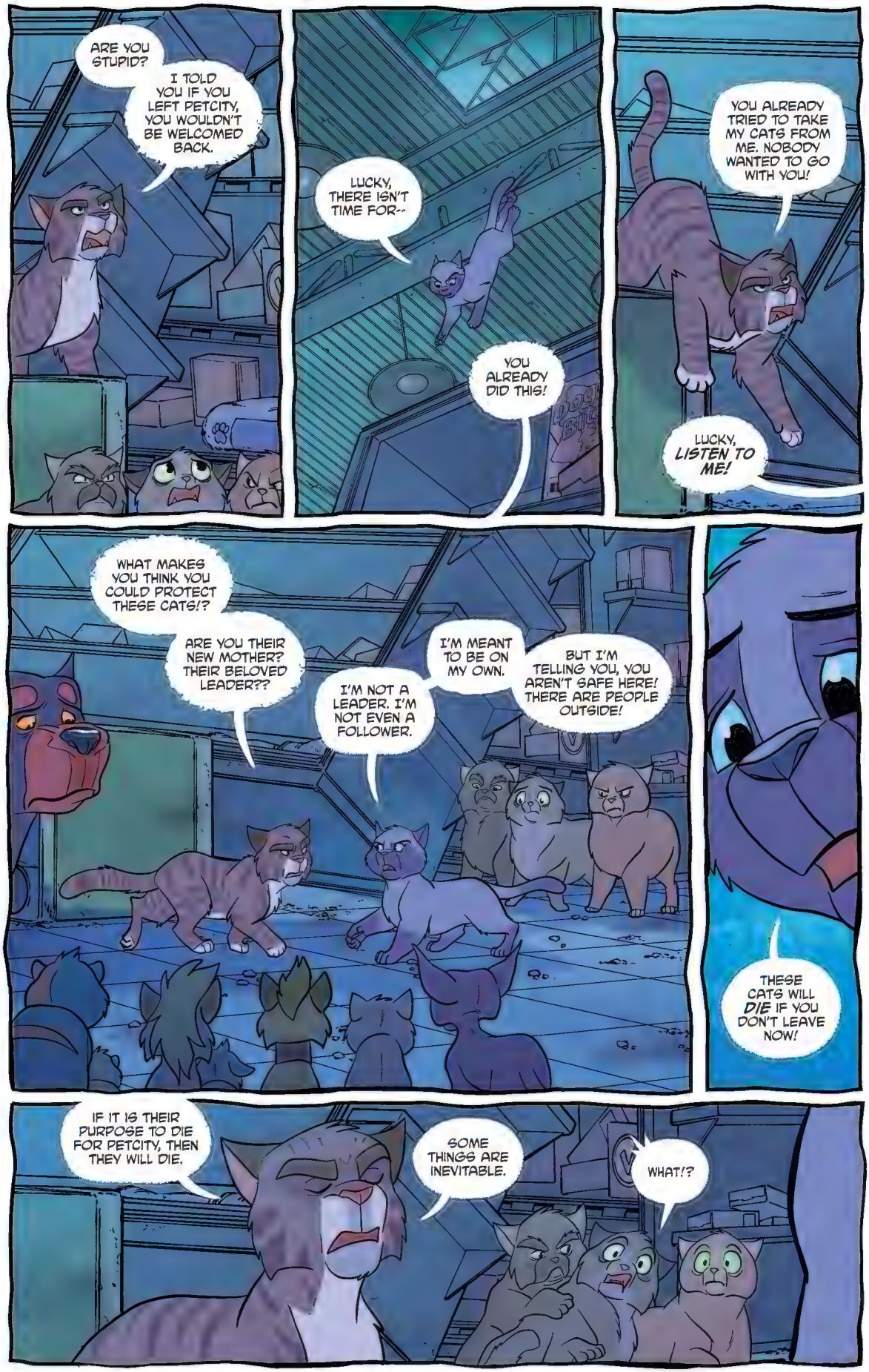
IF YOU REJOIN THE PACK, THERE WILL BE VIOLENCE.
I HAVE TO--
THE PEOPLE... THE PEOPLE IN THE SUITS, THEYRE...
GROCERY
STOP
...THEY'RE KILLERS!
LORD AND GIGI, THE KITTENS, EVERYONE... EVERYONE IS IN DANGER!
I HAVE TO WARN THEM!
PET CITY
YOU DO NOT HAVE TO DO ANYTHING.
PET CITY
SUPERGENTER
037
CDC

WE AREN'T SAFE HERE!
LUCKY ISN'T BEING HONEST...
HE CAN'T PROTECT US FROM THOSE... THE BAD--
LELAND, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
LUCKY SAID NOT TO--
YOU ARE OUTSIDE OF... OF PURPOSE.
THAT DOESN'T MATTER! PURPOSE DOESN'T...
THOSE BAD CATS ARE STILL HERE! THEY ARE HIDING AMONG US.
WILLIAM IS ONE OF THEM NOW. HE ATTACKED US IN THE BACK OF THE STORE.
PATRICK IS DEAD. HE... HE--
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT!
MOOSH CHASED OUT ALL THE BAD KIND.
NO NO, HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH...

...THERE ARE STILL BAD CATS HERE.
DISCIPLINERS. SHOW LELAND HOW WE DEAL WITH INFORMANTS.
LUCKY, IS WHAT HE SAID TRUE?
ARE WE SAFE IN HERE?
DO WE HAVE A PLAN??
WHERE IS PATRICK?
LET'S GO CHECK IT OUT!
MILO, ASH, ELEANOR! STAY WITH THE GROUP!
IT'S OK, MAMA!
WE'RE JUST GONNA LOOK IN THE BACK FOR--
OH, SICKENING.
MAMA, WHAT HAPPENED ?!
KIDS, COME WITH ME. RIGHT NOW!

EVERYONE JUST CALM DOWN!
LUCKY, COME ON. WE'RE NOT STAYING HERE ANOTHER SECOND.
LORD, HIT THE SWITCH!
SNACKS
I'M SORRY-- ARE YOU...?
DO YOU THINK YOU'RE IN CHARGE HERE?
IF WILLIAM HAS TURNED INTO ONE OF THOSE BEASTS... WE WILL NOT SURVIVE HIS WRATH.
LUCKY, PLEASE.
WE NEED TO GO SOMEWHERE SAFE.
HE'LL PICK US OFF ONE BY ONE!
LUCKY, WE NEED TO GET OUT AND WE NEED YOU OUT THERE PROTECTING US.
YOU AND MOOSH!
ALL OF YOU SHUT UP!
THIS PLACE IS MINE! I'M IN CHARGE!
I'M THE ONE WHO GIVES THE DAMN ORDERS!
GIGI'S RIGHT...

...YOU ALL HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.
IT'S NOT SAFE!
PET
DOO
OF COURSE.
ONCE THEY'VE ALL TURNED AGAINST ME...
...THE OUTSIDER COMES CRAWLING BACK.


ARE YOU STUPID?
I TOLD YOU IF YOU LEFT PETCITY, YOU WOULDN'T BE WELCOMED BACK.
LUCKY, THERE ISN'T TIME FOR--
YOU ALREADY DID THIS!
YOU ALREADY TRIED TO TAKE MY CATS FROM ME. NOBODY WANTED TO GO WITH YOU!
LUCKY, LISTEN TO ME!
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU COULD PROTECT THESE CATS!?
ARE YOU THEIR NEW MOTHER? THEIR BELOVED LEADER??
I'M NOT A LEADER. I'M NOT EVEN A FOLLOWER.
I'M MEANT TO BE ON MY OWN.
BUT I'M TELLING YOU, YOU AREN'T SAFE HERE! THERE ARE PEOPLE OUTSIDE!
THESE CATS WILL DIE IF YOU DON'T LEAVE NOW!
IF IT IS THEIR PURPOSE TO DIE FOR PETCITY, THEN THEY WILL DIE.
SOME THINGS ARE INEVITABLE.
WHAT!?

HACK
CHOMP
KAK
KOFF
AAAAAAGHHHGGLLL
OH GOD
OH GOD
OH GOD!
KIDS!
RUN!
MOOSH!
MOOOOSH!!

KOFF KAK HAK
KAK COUGH
OH GOD!
SOMEONE HELP!
MAMA, PLEASE !!!
MILO, BABY, KEEP RUNNING!
WE'RE COMING!
KAK
KOFF
HHHHKSSSSSSSS
KAK HAK
ELSIE, RUN...
KEEP THEM SAFE...
YOU HAVE TO...
CRASH
BLAM!
WHAT WAS THAT?

HKK
THUD
BLAM! BLAM!
It's a nest!
Take them down!
BLAM!
Who's using live ammo!?
We need *living samples*! Not more *dead* for the incinerator.
You have tranquilizers for a reason!
THE DOOR! THERE IS AN OPENING!
WE CAN GET OUT!

NO.
I'M IN CHARGE HERE!
THIS PLACE IS MINE!
AND NOBODY'S TAKING IT FROM ME!
HIssssss
Up top! Aggressive behavior!
Is it infected?! Is it--
HIIIISSSSSSSSSSSSS
MOOSH...

BLAM!
KIL--
WOOF WOOF
WOOF WOOF WOOF
GAAAAAHHH!!
Oh God, I'm bit!!
Oh Jesus God, please--!!
Take him down.
THIP
THIP
THIP

Did he have it?
Does he have it!?
WHAT DO WE DO?! WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO--
We don't know who's got it!
Spread out! Full sweep! Round them all up!
MAMA, WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?!
Need some help back here!
BABY... I DON'T KNOW. I...
Don't touch them with your bare hands!
Do not get bit!

AND SO WE FOUND OURSELVES
LORD!?
KIDS, ARE YOU OK!?
ASH? MILO? ELEANOR?
PETCITY
RIGHT BACK WHERE WE STARTED.
CDC
WE'RE HERE...

...EVERYONE'S HERE.
AFTER ALL THE RUNNING AND FIGHTING
CHECKPOINT AHEAD
OK, GOOD.
WE'RE ALL TOGETHER. WE'RE--
AS LONG AS WE'RE TOGETHER...
...WE'LL BE OK.
AND SCRATCHING AND DYING...
TEMPORARY CDC WORK SITE AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
NO TRESPASSING
CDC
CDC

PETCITY
SUPERCENTER
...SOME THINGS
ARE INEVITABLE.
Huff
Huff
END CHAPTER 20.

FERAL

FERAL

COVER GALLERY

SUPERCENTER

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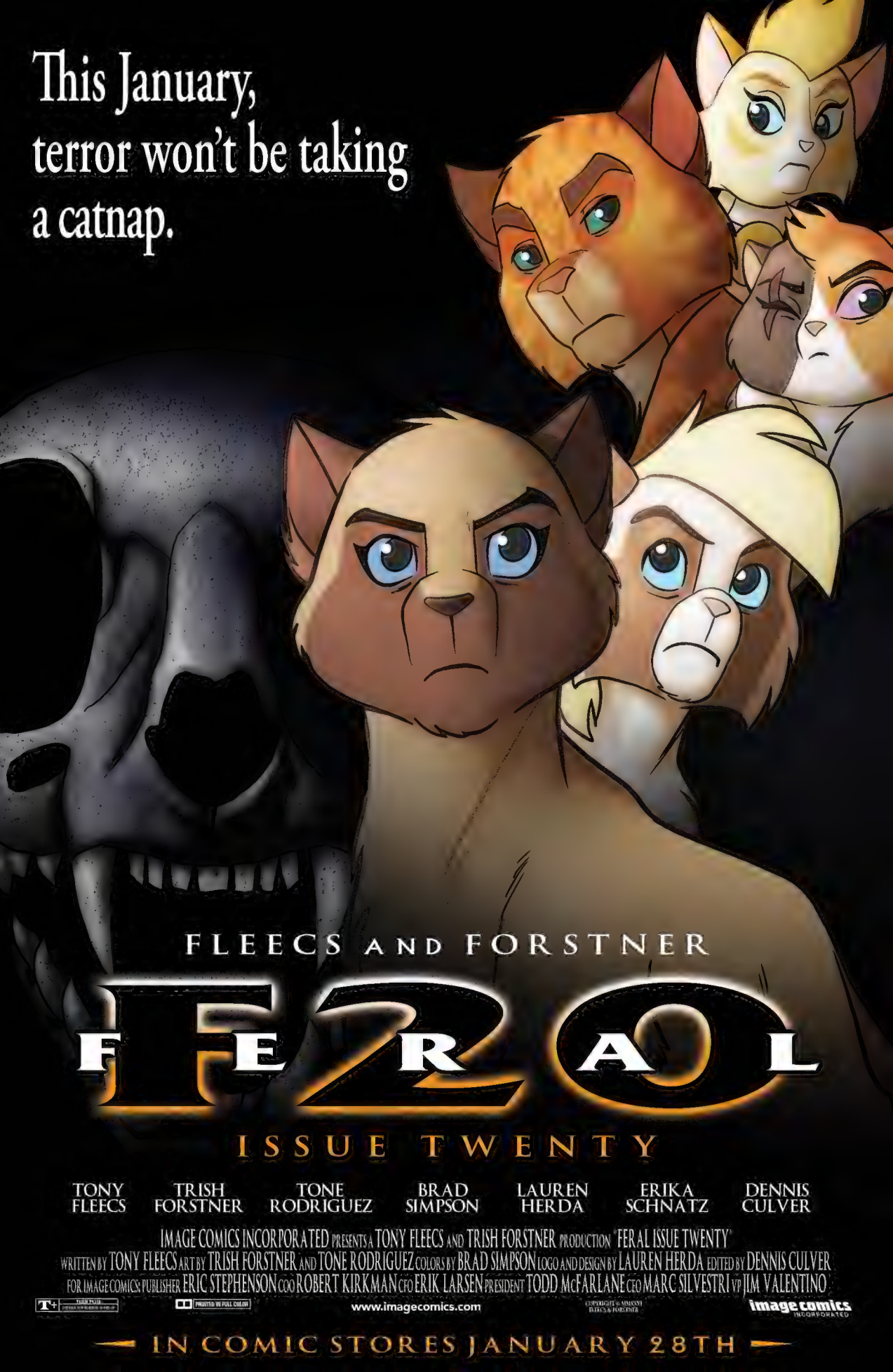
This January,
terror won't be taking
a catnap.
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FERAL

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TONY FLEECS

Tony's comic books have sold hundreds of thousands of copies in the United States and have been translated and reprinted all over the world. His creator-owned work includes **Jeff Steinberg: Champion of Earth** (2016), **Time Shopper** (2021), **LOCAL MAN** (2023), and **Uncanny Valley** (2024).

He has also worked on such titles as **Star Wars**, **Wolverine**, **Super-Pets**, **Batman**, **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles**, **Transformers**, and just a literal TON of **My Little Pony**.

STRAY DOGS (2021), his breakout hit collaboration with Trish Forstner, has sold nearly a million copies across all formats.

TRISH FORSTNER

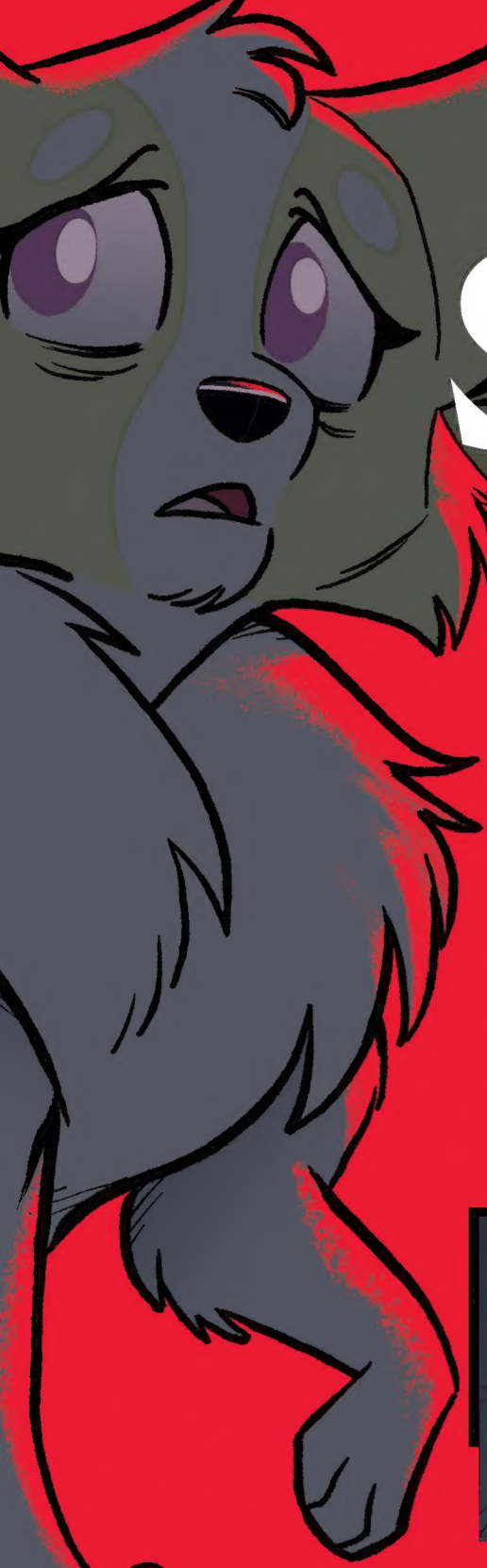
The co-creator of **STRAY DOGS**, Trish Forstner has a lifetime of experience creating fun, lovable characters. She's been drawing since she could hold a pencil. Trish loves classic animation and has drawn influence from many sources, particularly Classic '80s and '90s toons.

You've seen her work in IDW's **My Little Pony** comic series as well as on **Disney's Gargoyles**, **Darkwing Duck**, **Scar** and **Lilo and Stitch**.

TONE RODRIGUEZ

A comic book creator from Los Angeles, California, Tone Rodriguez has worked for nearly every major comic publisher over the past 25 years, including Image Comics, Dark Horse, Top Cow, Cross-Gen and Bongo Comics on titles from **SHADOWHAWK** and **Conan** to **The Simpsons** and **Futurama Comics**.

He also contributed to many TV projects, creating the look of The Dark Defender on **Showtime's Dexter** TV show and The Adventures of Jimmy Halpert comic for **NBC's The Office**.



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THE BATTLE FOR PET CITY! THE INDOOR CATS THINK THEY'VE FINALLY FOUND SANCTUARY, BUT THE PET STORE'S INHABITANTS MAY BE EVEN MORE DANGEROUS THAN THE RABID HORDES OUTSIDE. ELSIE AND LUCKY LEAD THEIR CREW AGAINST MOTHER HELENA AND HER STRANGE SHUT-INS, WITH SURVIVAL HANGING IN THE BALANCE.

DON'T GET SCRATCHED. DON'T GET BIT.
DON'T BECOME... FERAL.

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